



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration

July 2010

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools  
Principals of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools  
Directors of Regional Information Centers

**FROM:** David Abrams

**SUBJECT:** NYSESLAT – Determining an English Language Learner’s (ELL) English Performance Level

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

This memorandum provides the scale score ranges for the 2010 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), along with guidance and information concerning the interpretation of the scale scores. The NYSESLAT scale score ranges are based on the results of standard setting in which New York State teachers advise the Department in establishing the appropriate student performance levels at each grade from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

This document will be posted on the Department’s web site at:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nyseslat>.

Superintendents and principals are advised to share this information immediately with English as a second language and bilingual education program administrators and coordinators.

## II. RAW SCORE TO SCALE SCORE CONVERSION CHARTS

NYSESLAT is administered in five grade bands: K–1, 2–4, 5–6, 7–8, and 9–12. Each grade band has four modalities: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. In order to determine students’ performance levels (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, or Proficient\*), their raw scores must be combined as follows:

- Listening & Speaking combined raw score
- Reading & Writing combined raw score

\*For NYSESLAT scores that are provided by a Regional Information Center (RIC) or Large City scanning centers, the performance levels are presented numerically as follows: 21 – Beginner; 22 – Intermediate; 23 – Advanced; 24 – Proficient.

The attached charts (Attachments A–E) should be used to convert a student’s 2010 raw scores to scale scores. Please note that there are separate conversion charts for each of the five grade bands, as follows:

<b>NYSESLAT Grade Band</b>	<b>2010 Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart</b>
K–1	Attachment A
2–4	Attachment B
5–6	Attachment C
7–8	Attachment D
9–12	Attachment E

### **III. METHOD FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE LEVELS**

A student’s English performance level is determined by the scale scores on both the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components of the NYSESLAT.

**The NYSESLAT is the only test that may be used to assess an ELL student’s performance in English or to exit a student from ELL status.**

The chart, “NYSESLAT 2010 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency” (Attachment F), is used to determine the student’s English performance level. The score ranges differ for **each** grade (K–12). ELL students are determined to be English proficient when they attain the minimum combined scale scores at the proficient level in **both** Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing. To determine a student’s performance level in Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing, these steps must be followed:

1. Find the appropriate conversion chart for a given student (e.g., Attachment A for a Grade 1 student and Attachment E for a Grade 10 student). Be sure to refer to the chart for the grade level that the student was in when he or she took the NYSESLAT in April/May 2010 and not to the grade level in which the student will be enrolled during the 2010–2011 school year.
2. Match the student’s combined **raw score** for Listening & Speaking to the corresponding scale score for Listening & Speaking on the “NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart.”
3. Match the student’s combined **raw score** for Reading & Writing to the corresponding scale score for Reading & Writing on the “NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart.”
4. Match the student’s grade and **scale score** on Listening & Speaking to the “NYSESLAT 2010 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency” (Attachment F) to determine the student’s Listening & Speaking performance level.
5. Match the student’s grade and **scale score** on Reading & Writing to the “NYSESLAT 2010 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency” (Attachment F) to determine the student’s Reading & Writing performance level.

The following guidelines should be followed in determining a student's overall performance level:

- To move from one performance level to the next, the student must score within the range of the higher performance level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.
- ELL students who have advanced in only one combination of modalities remain at the lower performance level.
- To move from any performance level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced) to the English proficient level, the student must score at the **proficient** level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.

For instance, a kindergarten student must achieve scale scores of 616 on Listening & Speaking **and** 609 on Reading & Writing to be identified as English proficient. As another example, a first grade student must achieve scale scores of at least 649 on Listening & Speaking **and** 655 on Reading & Writing to be identified as English proficient.

#### IV. FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

A description of the English as a second language performance indicators by grade level is available on the web site of the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/biling/>.

If you have further questions about determining any ELL student's level of English proficiency, please contact the Office of State Assessment at [emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov) or call 518-474-5902.

Questions regarding bilingual/ESL services may be directed to the Office of Bilingual Education/Foreign Language Studies (OBE/FLS) by phone at 518-474-8775, or via e-mail at [obefls@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:obefls@mail.nysed.gov).

If your school has not received its students' NYSESLAT score data, please contact the Regional Information Center (RIC) or Large City Scanning Center, as applicable. The Department will send the NYSESLAT results to nonpublic schools in the beginning of September when schools re-open. Questions should be directed to the Office of Information and Reporting Services at 518-474-7965.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration on behalf of our students.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Grades K–1 NYSESLAT 2010**  
**Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>K–1 Listening and Speaking</b>		<b>K–1 Reading and Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>	<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	328	0	313
1	378	1	365
2	403	2	393
3	418	3	411
4	430	4	425
5	439	5	435
6	447	6	445
7	453	7	452
8	459	8	459
9	465	9	466
10	470	10	471
11	474	11	477
12	479	12	482
13	483	13	486
14	487	14	491
15	490	15	495
16	494	16	499
17	498	17	504
18	501	18	508
19	504	19	512
20	507	20	516
21	511	21	520
22	514	22	524
23	517	23	528
24	520	24	533
25	523	25	537
26	526	26	542
27	529	27	546
28	532	28	551
29	535	29	556
30	537	30	562
31	540	31	568
32	543	32	574
33	546	33	581
34	549	34	590
35	552	35	599
36	555	36	611
37	559	37	628
38	562	38	655
39	565	39	706
40	568		
41	572		
42	575		
43	579		
44	583		
45	587		
46	591		
47	596		
48	601		
49	606		
50	611		
51	617		
52	624		
53	632		
54	642		
55	653		
56	669		
57	696		
58	746		

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**Grades 2–4 NYSESLAT 2010**  
**Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>2–4 Listening and Speaking</b>		<b>2–4 Reading and Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>	<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	386	0	368
1	436	1	420
2	461	2	448
3	477	3	466
4	488	4	479
5	497	5	490
6	505	6	500
7	512	7	508
8	518	8	515
9	523	9	522
10	528	10	528
11	533	11	534
12	538	12	539
13	542	13	545
14	546	14	549
15	550	15	554
16	553	16	559
17	557	17	563
18	560	18	568
19	564	19	572
20	567	20	576
21	570	21	580
22	573	22	584
23	576	23	588
24	579	24	592
25	582	25	596
26	585	26	600
27	588	27	604
28	591	28	609
29	594	29	613
30	597	30	617
31	600	31	622
32	603	32	626
33	606	33	631
34	609	34	636
35	612	35	641
36	615	36	646
37	618	37	652
38	622	38	659
39	625	39	665
40	628	40	673
41	632	41	682
42	636	42	693
43	639	43	706
44	643	44	723
45	647	45	752
46	652	46	804
47	656		
48	661		
49	666		
50	672		
51	678		
52	685		
53	693		
54	702		
55	714		
56	730		
57	756		
58	806		

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**Grades 5–6 NYSESLAT 2010**  
**Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>5–6 Listening and Speaking</b>		<b>5–6 Reading and Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>	<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	398	0	431
1	448	1	481
2	474	2	507
3	490	3	524
4	502	4	536
5	511	5	545
6	519	6	554
7	526	7	561
8	532	8	567
9	538	9	573
10	543	10	579
11	548	11	584
12	552	12	589
13	556	13	593
14	560	14	597
15	564	15	602
16	567	16	606
17	571	17	609
18	574	18	613
19	577	19	617
20	580	20	620
21	583	21	624
22	586	22	627
23	589	23	631
24	592	24	634
25	595	25	638
26	598	26	641
27	601	27	644
28	604	28	648
29	606	29	651
30	609	30	655
31	612	31	658
32	615	32	661
33	618	33	665
34	620	34	669
35	623	35	672
36	626	36	676
37	629	37	680
38	632	38	684
39	635	39	688
40	638	40	693
41	641	41	697
42	645	42	702
43	648	43	708
44	652	44	713
45	656	45	720
46	660	46	727
47	664	47	735
48	668	48	744
49	673	49	756
50	678	50	772
51	684	51	799
52	690	52	849
53	697		
54	704		
55	714		
56	725		
57	741		
58	767		
59	817		

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**Grades 7–8 NYSESLAT 2010**  
**Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

7–8 Listening and Speaking		7–8 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	428	0	426
1	478	1	475
2	503	2	502
3	518	3	517
4	530	4	529
5	539	5	539
6	546	6	547
7	553	7	554
8	559	8	560
9	564	9	565
10	569	10	571
11	574	11	576
12	578	12	580
13	582	13	585
14	586	14	589
15	590	15	593
16	594	16	597
17	597	17	600
18	600	18	604
19	604	19	607
20	607	20	611
21	610	21	614
22	613	22	618
23	616	23	621
24	619	24	624
25	622	25	628
26	625	26	631
27	627	27	634
28	630	28	638
29	633	29	641
30	636	30	644
31	639	31	648
32	642	32	651
33	645	33	654
34	647	34	658
35	650	35	662
36	653	36	665
37	656	37	669
38	660	38	673
39	663	39	678
40	666	40	682
41	669	41	687
42	673	42	692
43	676	43	697
44	680	44	703
45	684	45	710
46	688	46	718
47	692	47	727
48	697	48	739
49	702	49	754
50	707	50	780
51	713	51	830
52	719		
53	726		
54	734		
55	743		
56	755		
57	771		
58	797		
59	847		

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Grades 9–12 NYSESLAT 2010**  
**Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

9–12 Listening and Speaking		9–12 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	435	0	464
1	484	1	513
2	509	2	539
3	525	3	554
4	536	4	566
5	545	5	575
6	553	6	583
7	559	7	589
8	565	8	595
9	571	9	601
10	576	10	606
11	580	11	611
12	584	12	615
13	588	13	619
14	592	14	623
15	596	15	627
16	600	16	631
17	603	17	635
18	606	18	638
19	610	19	641
20	613	20	645
21	616	21	648
22	619	22	651
23	622	23	655
24	625	24	658
25	628	25	661
26	631	26	664
27	633	27	667
28	636	28	670
29	639	29	673
30	642	30	677
31	645	31	680
32	648	32	683
33	651	33	686
34	653	34	690
35	656	35	693
36	659	36	697
37	662	37	700
38	665	38	704
39	668	39	708
40	671	40	712
41	675	41	717
42	678	42	721
43	682	43	726
44	685	44	732
45	689	45	737
46	693	46	744
47	697	47	752
48	701	48	761
49	706	49	772
50	711	50	787
51	716	51	813
52	722	52	862
53	728		
54	736		
55	745		
56	756		
57	772		
58	797		
59	847		

## ATTACHMENT F

### NYSESLAT 2010 SCALE SCORE RANGES FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

To determine a student's overall performance level, match the student's scale scores for Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing to the scale score ranges for Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing on this chart.

- To move from one performance level to the next, the student must score within the range of the higher performance level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.
- Students who have moved in only one combination of modalities remain at the lower performance level.
- To move from any performance level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced) to the English proficient level, the student must score at the proficient level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.

Grade	BEGINNING		INTERMEDIATE		ADVANCED		PROFICIENT	
	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing
K	510 and below	536 and below	511–572	537–581	573–615	582–608	616 and above	609 and above
1	519 and below	558 and below	520–581	559–608	582–648	609–654	649 and above	655 and above
2	542 and below	570 and below	543–601	571–622	602–660	623–662	661 and above	663 and above
3	554 and below	579 and below	555–610	580–629	611–674	630–678	675 and above	679 and above
4	566 and below	588 and below	567–620	589–641	621–683	642–690	684 and above	691 and above
5	578 and below	619 and below	579–630	620–659	631–685	660–703	686 and above	704 and above
6	586 and below	622 and below	587–638	623–667	639–695	668–709	696 and above	710 and above
7	596 and below	628 and below	597–650	629–673	651–702	674–709	703 and above	710 and above
8	604 and below	631 and below	605–660	632–681	661–702	682–709	703 and above	710 and above
9	622 and below	642 and below	623–677	643–697	678–714	698–725	715 and above	726 and above
10	627 and below	645 and below	628–685	646–701	686–720	702–731	721 and above	732 and above
11	634 and below	648 and below	635–693	649–710	694–727	711–738	728 and above	739 and above
12	639 and below	651 and below	640–703	652–714	704–727	715–738	728 and above	739 and above