



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

## State Testing and Accommodations for English Language Learners

Every spring, students take New York State tests in different subjects. Students take these tests at the schools that they attend.

### **What tests are administered in New York State?**

Kindergarten–12 <sup>th</sup> grade:	English Language Learners (ELLs) take the New York State English as a Second Language Test (NYSESLAT).
3 <sup>rd</sup> –8 <sup>th</sup> grades:	All students take the New York State English and Math exams.
5 <sup>th</sup> grade and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade:	All students take the New York State Science exam.
High School (9 <sup>th</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup> grades):	Students must take and pass 4 or 5 New York State Regents exams in order to graduate from high school. Tests are given in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Read more in our fact sheet, <a href="#">High School Promotion &amp; Graduation Policy for English Language Learners</a> .

### **What state tests are ELLs required to take?**

ELLs must take the same state exams as English-speaking students—with 3 important exceptions.

1. ELLs do not take the Grades 3–8 English exam during their first year in the United States.
2. ELLs who arrive in the United States in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be excused from taking one or two Regents exams.
3. Only ELLs are required to take the NYSESLAT.

### **When are state tests administered?**

Most tests are given in the spring.

- Grades 3–8 English and Math exams: Between April and May.
- Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science exam: Between mid-May and early June.
- NYSESLAT: between April and May.
- Regents exams: June, August, and January.

The exact dates change each year. The dates for the exams can be found on the [New York State Education Department's website](#).

### **What is the NYSESLAT?**

The NYSESLAT tests English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Since the NYSESLAT tests English language skills, it is not available in any other language.

## ***Do ELLs receive testing accommodations?***

Yes, ELLs may receive testing accommodations because they are not yet fluent English speakers. Former ELLs also may receive accommodations up to two years after exiting ELL status.

**Note:** ELLs do not receive testing accommodations on the NYSESLAT because the test measures English language skills.

## ***What testing accommodations do ELLs receive?***

There are different types of accommodations that students may receive. Some common examples are:

- Time extension (e.g. if a test is 1 hour long, an ELL may be given 1.5 hours to complete the test)
- Separate testing location
- Bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries
- Written translations of exams
- Oral translations of exams for languages in which written translations are not available.

### **NOTE:**

Keep in mind that accommodations can be provided on most tests, including teacher-made tests and state exams!

## ***How do I request accommodations?***

At the beginning of the school year, school staff should determine which accommodations would be most helpful for your child. If you think your child would benefit from testing accommodations or you have questions about the accommodations your child is receiving, speak with your child's teacher.

## ***Which state exams are available in other languages?***

- Grades 3–8 Math exam is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.
- Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science exam is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.
- Regents exams in Math, Science, and Social Studies are available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, or Spanish.

### **Still have more questions?**

**Please Call the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline**

Monday through Thursday • 10 am to 4 pm

1-866-427-6033 (toll free)

[www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)

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