

Summer Administration of the NYSITELL

OVERVIEW

During the summer, schools typically administer the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) to newly enrolled students for the upcoming school year. This optional process allows schools to prepare student schedules and plan for English Language Learners (ELLs) services.

On May 27, 2021, NYSED announced additional flexibility for schools to administer the NYSITELL during a special administration period (August-September 2021) to current ELLs who were fully remote during the Spring 2021 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) administration period and were unable to complete the NYSESLAT. This option allows schools to determine a current English Language Proficiency level for students whose latest proficiency level may be over two years old. Additionally, this allows students the opportunity to exit ELL services if they score Commanding on the NYSITELL exam.

This memo provides guidance on the administration of the NYSITELL to students eligible for the NYSITELL special administration period and newly enrolled students. While the special and summer administration of the NYSITELL is optional, it is strongly recommended to ensure that schools are prepared for the upcoming school year and can provide services better aligned to student's current needs.

Note: This information is current as of June 17, 2021. This document will be updated as more information becomes available.

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CURRENT ELLS WHO DID NOT COMPLETE THE SPRING 2021 NYSESLAT

New for summer 2021, schools may administer the NYSITELL to **current ELLs** who were **fully remote** during Spring 2021 NYSESLAT administration period (April 13, 2021 – June 9, 2021) and did **not** complete the 2021 NYSESLAT in part or in full. The results of the NYSITELL administered during this special administration period will serve as a students' current English Language Proficiency level and determine provision of ELL services in school year 2021-22. Additionally, if an ELL scores Commanding English Language Proficiency, they would exit ELL services and become eligible for former ELL services for school year 2021-22. There will not be an alternative method to exit ELL services (i.e., NYSITELL in conjunction with NYSED ELA or Regents exams).

Note: Any student who completed the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT is **not** eligible to take the NYSITELL during this special administration period.

Additional guidance regarding the special administration period will be shared in upcoming Principals Digests.

PROVISIONAL ELLS WHO DID NOT TAKE THE SPRING 2021 NYSESLAT

New for summer 2021, provisionally identified ELLs who did not take the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT may take the NYSITELL beginning **July 15**. Schools have the option of administering the NYSITELL to these students during this time. However, please note that students with a NYSED NYSITELL waiver **must** be administered the NYSITELL upon return to in-person instruction. Since these students are provisionally identified ELLs, schools must administer the NYSITELL as part of the formal identification process within 30 school days of returning to in person instruction at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Therefore, schools must administer the NYSITELL to these students by **October 27, 2021**.

Note: Any provisionally identified ELL who completed the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT should **not** take the NYSITELL. The results of the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT will supersede any NYSITELL results in determining services for school year 2021-22.

NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS STARTING CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER

As in previous years, schools may administer the NYSITELL to newly enrolled students that will start classes in September. Schools may administer the NYSITELL to eligible students per guidelines below:

- **Pre-K Students Transitioning to Kindergarten:** Schools may administer the NYSITELL to these students beginning on **June 1, 2021**. For additional information, please refer to [ELL Identification for Pre-K Students](#).
- **Newly Enrolled Students for Grades 1-12:** Schools may administer the NYSITELL to these students beginning on **July 15, 2021**. To determine NYSITELL eligibility, schools should administer the Home Language Identification Survey (HLIS) and individual interview (for students whose home language is other than English) per the procedures outlined in the [Policy & Reference Guide](#).

The results of the NYSITELL administered during this period will serve as a students' current measure of English Language Proficiency and determine provision of ELL services in school year 2021-22.

NYSITELL ADMINISTRATION

Per the usual protocol, the NYSITELL must be administered in person and administration procedures must adhere to the DOE's safety protocols. For additional information, please refer to the [NYSITELL InfoHub](#).

Ordering NYSITELL Exam Materials

Principals must order NYSITELL exams through the [NYSESED portal](#). Schools that order NYSITELL exams by July 2, 2021, can expect delivery prior to August.

Along with the exams, schools will receive directions for administration and scoring guides. Additional information regarding generating and printing answer documents is forthcoming.

New for School Year 20-21

When placing your order with NYSED, indicate the total number of testers you have for each grade. Your school will be sent the number of test booklets requested, rounded up to the next multiple of 25, except Level I which is rounded up to the next multiple of 20. This will ensure that you have enough test booklets for each tester and without reusing test booklets.

All test shipments will be delivered by UPS between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Principals who find that they need additional NYSITELL materials may return to the online examination request system throughout the school year to revise or add any supplemental quantities needed. To place your request, go to the most recent Session. Any supplemental materials requested throughout the school year should arrive at the school 30-60 days after requested.

Note: For the special NYSITELL administration, eligible current ELLs take the exam level that corresponds to the grade level that they will be in 2021-2022 school year.