

Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) on New York State Assessments

Schools may provide the following testing accommodations to ELL students, including former ELLs for up to two years immediately after they have exited English as a Second Language.

Schools may provide testing accommodations to ELLs, as needed, on all NYS ELA and content-area assessments (i.e., Mathematics, Science and Social Studies). Districts/schools must make all necessary arrangements to make these accommodations available for ELLs who need them. A list of NYS approved accommodations may be found in the School Administrator's Manual (SAM) for each respective test.

Testing Accommodations for ELLs students on NYS ELA and Content-area assessments include:

- Time Extension** (All exams): Schools may extend the test time for ELL students on NYS ELA and content-area Assessments and on Regents Examinations. Principals may use any reasonable extensions, such as "time and a half" (the required testing time plus half that amount), in accordance with their best judgment about the needs of the ELL students. Principals should consult with the student's classroom teacher in making these determinations
- Separate Location** (All exams): Schools are encouraged to provide optimal testing environments and facilities for ELLs students. NYS assessments may be administered to ELLs individually or in small groups in a separate location.
- Bilingual Dictionaries and/or Glossaries:** (All Exams except Foreign Language and NYSESLAT). The bilingual dictionaries and glossaries may provide only direct one to one translations of words. Bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries that provide definitions or explanations are not permitted. Bilingual glossaries in the content areas are available to download at: http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/center/technical_assistance/program/language_rbern/resources/glossary (free to download)
- Simultaneous use of English and Alternative Language Editions** (All Exams except English Language Arts, Foreign Language and NYSESLAT Examinations). For state examinations for which the Department provides written translations, ELLs may use both English and an alternative language edition of the test simultaneously. However, they should be instructed to record all of their responses in only one test booklet. The alternative language edition used by the student should be so indicated on the student's answer sheet. Note: There are no translations of English Language Arts or NYSESLAT examinations.
- Oral Translation for Low Incidence Languages:** (All Exams except English Language Arts, Foreign Language and NYSESLAT Examinations). Schools may provide ELL students with an oral translation of a state examination when there is no translated edition provided by the Department. All translations must be oral, direct translations of the English editions. Written translations are not allowed. No clarifications or explanations may be provided. Translators should receive copies of the English edition of the tests one hour prior to administration. The Department's Office of Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBE-RNs) can assist schools in locating suitable translators.
- Writing Responses in the Native Language:** (All exams except English Language Arts, Foreign Language and NYSESLAT Examinations). ELL students making use of alternative language editions or of oral translations of state examinations may write their responses to the open ended question in their native language. Scoring the tests is the responsibility of the school. However, the Department's Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies, and the RBE-RNs can assist schools in locating persons who can translate the students' responses into English to facilitate scoring of the answer papers.