



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
Office of State Assessment

July 2026

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public School Districts
Principals of Public Schools
Leaders of Charter, Religious, and Independent Schools
Directors of Regional Information Centers

FROM: Zachary Warner

SUBJECT: NYSESLAT—Determining an English Language Learner's (ELL) English Language Proficiency Level

This memorandum provides the scale score ranges for the 2026 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), along with guidance and information on interpreting the scale scores.

Spring 2026 marked the final administration of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Beginning in Spring 2027, [New York will transition to WIDA ACCESS](#), WIDA's suite of K–12 summative English language proficiency assessments. WIDA ACCESS is administered annually to English language learners (ELLs) in Kindergarten through Grade 12 in WIDA Consortium member states to measure students' progress in developing academic English proficiency. Students identified as ELLs with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in WIDA Alternate ACCESS. The New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) will continue to be offered until it is replaced by the WIDA Screener in Fall 2027.

The [WIDA NY page](#) provides transition updates, webinar recordings, and additional resources. New York educators may also subscribe to the [WIDA in New York](#) email newsletter to receive ongoing updates and resources.

The following information explains how to interpret student results from the final Spring 2026 administration of the NYSESLAT using the accompanying conversion charts.

NYSESLAT CONVERSION CHARTS

The NYSESLAT scale score ranges associated with the proficiency levels for Grades K–12 are the same as the scale score ranges established following the 2016 administration, with the exception of Grade 1. In 2024, a Standard Setting was conducted to establish the new scale score ranges for the Grade 1 NYSESLAT first administered earlier that spring.

Please note that, in accordance with Part 154 of the Commissioner's Regulations, ELLs can exit ELL status in the following ways:

- Grades K–12: Scoring at the Commanding level on the NYSESLAT
- OR
- Grades 3–8: Scoring at the Expanding level on the NYSESLAT and level 3 or above on the New York State English Language Arts assessment taken within the same school year
- Grades 9–12: Scoring at the Expanding level on the NYSESLAT and 65 or above on the Regents Examination in English Language Arts taken within the same school year

Superintendents, principals, and charter school leaders are advised to share this information immediately with English as a New Language and Bilingual Education program administrators and coordinators. In August, individual student NYSESLAT Score Reports will be available in the Level 2 Reporting (L2RPT) environment. More information on how to access these reports is available on the [Information and Reporting Services](#) website. Schools are to provide these reports to each student's parent/guardian and make them available to the student's teachers.

RAW SCORE TO SCALE SCORE CONVERSION CHARTS

Students will receive a scale score for each modality (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). In addition, each student will receive a total scale score for the test, which is the sum of the student's scale scores for all four modalities. For example, if a student earned a scale score of 60 in each of the four modalities, the student's total scale score would be 240.

Students' proficiency levels will be one of five levels: Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, or Commanding.¹ A student must receive a valid score for each of the four modalities in order to receive a proficiency level.

The attached charts (Attachments A–H) should be used to convert a student's 2026 raw score in each modality (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking) to a scale score. Please note that there are separate conversion charts for each modality within each of the seven grade bands. The table below shows the attachment associated with each grade band.

¹ For NYSESLAT results that are provided by a regional information center (RIC) or large-city scanning center, the performance levels may be presented numerically as follows:
31—Entering, 32—Emerging, 33—Transitioning, 34—Expanding, or 35—Commanding.

NYSESLAT Grade Band	2026 Raw Scores to Scale Scores Conversion Chart
K	Attachment A
1	Attachment B
2	Attachment C
3–4	Attachment D
5–6	Attachment E
7–8	Attachment F
9–12	Attachment G

The correspondence between the scale scores and the raw scores in the conversion charts depends on the overall difficulty of the questions on the NYSESLAT. As a result, the conversion charts change from one administration year to another to reflect the differences between examinations. It is crucial to use the attached conversion charts to determine the student's final score for the 2026 NYSESLAT. The attached conversion charts are **only** usable for the administration of the 2026 NYSESLAT.

METHOD FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVEL

A student's English language proficiency level is determined by their total scale score. The determination that a student has achieved the Commanding proficiency level on the NYSESLAT is based solely on the student's total scale score. The chart, *NYSESLAT Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Language Proficiency* (Attachment H), is used to determine the student's English language proficiency level. The total scale score ranges associated with each proficiency level differ for each grade (K–12).

To determine a student's English language proficiency level, these steps must be followed:

1. Find the appropriate conversion chart for a given student (e.g., Attachment A for a Grade K student or Attachment G for a Grade 10 student). Be sure to refer to the chart that corresponds to the grade level in which the student was enrolled when they took the NYSESLAT in April–May 2026, **not** the grade level that the student will be enrolled in during the 2026–27 school year.
2. Match the student's raw score for each modality to the corresponding scale score for that modality.
3. Sum the student's scale scores for each of the four modalities to determine the student's total scale score.
4. Match the student's grade when tested in spring 2026 to the *NYSESLAT Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Language Proficiency* (Attachment H) chart to determine the student's proficiency level.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Additional information about the NYSESLAT may be found in the [NYSESLAT 2026 School Administrator's Manual](#) on the [Office of State Assessment's website](#).

If you have further questions about determining any ELL's level of English language proficiency, please [email](#) the Office of State Assessment or call 518-474-5902.

Questions regarding bilingual/ENL services may be directed to the [Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages](#) by [email](#) or by phone at 518-474-8775.

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. Questions concerning score data may also be directed to the [Office of Information and Reporting Services](#) at 518-474-7965 or [Datasupport](#).

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of New York State students.

ATTACHMENT A

Grade K NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grade K	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	37
2	42
3	46
4	48
5	51
6	53
7	55
8	56
9	58
10	60
11	61
12	63
13	65
14	67
15	69
16	72
17	76
18	81
19	90

Grade K	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	47
4	50
5	53
6	55
7	57
8	59
9	61
10	63
11	65
12	67
13	69
14	72
15	75
16	78
17	84
18	90

Grade K	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	41
2	45
3	48
4	50
5	52
6	54
7	56
8	59
9	61
10	64
11	68
12	73
13	81
14	90

Grade K	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	46
4	48
5	50
6	52
7	54
8	56
9	58
10	59
11	61
12	63
13	65
14	66
15	68
16	70
17	73
18	75
19	78
20	83
21	90

ATTACHMENT B

Grade 1 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grade 1 Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	50
8	52
9	53
10	54
11	56
12	57
13	58
14	60
15	61
16	62
17	64
18	65
19	67
20	69
21	72
22	75
23	81
24	90

Grade 1 Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	37
3	41
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	48
8	50
9	51
10	52
11	53
12	54
13	55
14	57
15	58
16	59
17	60
18	61
19	62
20	64
21	65
22	67
23	69
24	71
25	75
26	80
27	90

Grade 1 Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	36
2	41
3	47
4	53
5	57
6	62
7	66
8	70
9	75
10	79
11	84
12	90

Grade 1 Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	36
2	40
3	43
4	45
5	48
6	49
7	51
8	53
9	55
10	56
11	58
12	60
13	61
14	63
15	65
16	67
17	70
18	72
19	76
20	81
21	90

ATTACHMENT C

Grade 2 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grade 2	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	34
3	38
4	40
5	42
6	44
7	46
8	47
9	49
10	50
11	51
12	53
13	54
14	55
15	57
16	58
17	60
18	61
19	63
20	65
21	68
22	71
23	76
24	90

Grade 2	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	36
3	40
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	50
9	52
10	53
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	59
15	60
16	61
17	62
18	64
19	65
20	67
21	69
22	71
23	73
24	76
25	79
26	86
27	90

Grade 2	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	35
2	40
3	46
4	51
5	55
6	59
7	63
8	66
9	70
10	74
11	79
12	90

Grade 2	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	46
2	51
3	54
4	56
5	58
6	60
7	62
8	64
9	66
10	67
11	69
12	71
13	72
14	74
15	76
16	78
17	80
18	83
19	86
20	89
21	90

ATTACHMENT D

Grades 3–4 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 3–4 Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	36
3	40
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	51
9	53
10	54
11	56
12	57
13	59
14	60
15	62
16	63
17	65
18	67
19	69
20	72
21	74
22	78
23	85
24	90

Grades 3–4 Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	36
3	40
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	51
9	52
10	53
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	59
15	60
16	61
17	63
18	64
19	66
20	67
21	69
22	71
23	73
24	76
25	80
26	86
27	90

Grades 3–4 Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	35
2	40
3	45
4	49
5	53
6	58
7	62
8	66
9	71
10	75
11	80
12	90

Grades 3–4 Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	42
2	47
3	50
4	52
5	55
6	56
7	58
8	60
9	61
10	63
11	65
12	66
13	68
14	70
15	71
16	74
17	76
18	78
19	82
20	86
21	90

ATTACHMENT E

Grades 5–6 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 5–6	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	36
3	40
4	43
5	46
6	48
7	50
8	51
9	53
10	54
11	56
12	57
13	59
14	61
15	62
16	64
17	65
18	67
19	69
20	72
21	75
22	79
23	85
24	90

Grades 5–6	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	37
3	40
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	48
8	49
9	51
10	52
11	53
12	54
13	55
14	56
15	58
16	59
17	60
18	61
19	62
20	64
21	65
22	67
23	69
24	71
25	74
26	80
27	90

Grades 5–6	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	35
2	40
3	44
4	48
5	52
6	56
7	60
8	65
9	69
10	74
11	80
12	90

Grades 5–6	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	46
2	50
3	53
4	55
5	57
6	59
7	60
8	62
9	64
10	65
11	67
12	68
13	70
14	72
15	74
16	75
17	78
18	80
19	83
20	87
21	90

ATTACHMENT F

Grades 7–8 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 7–8	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	48
7	50
8	52
9	53
10	54
11	56
12	57
13	58
14	60
15	61
16	62
17	64
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	72
22	75
23	81
24	90

Grades 7–8	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	38
3	41
4	44
5	46
6	48
7	50
8	52
9	53
10	54
11	56
12	57
13	58
14	60
15	61
16	62
17	64
18	65
19	66
20	68
21	70
22	72
23	74
24	77
25	80
26	86
27	90

Grades 7–8	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	38
2	44
3	48
4	52
5	56
6	59
7	63
8	67
9	72
10	76
11	82
12	90

Grades 7–8	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	42
2	46
3	49
4	52
5	54
6	56
7	58
8	60
9	62
10	63
11	65
12	67
13	69
14	70
15	72
16	74
17	76
18	78
19	81
20	86
21	90

ATTACHMENT G

Grades 9–12 NYSESLAT 2026 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 9–12	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	53
9	54
10	56
11	57
12	59
13	60
14	62
15	64
16	65
17	67
18	69
19	71
20	73
21	76
22	80
23	86
24	90

Grades 9–12	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	31
2	37
3	41
4	44
5	46
6	48
7	50
8	51
9	53
10	54
11	55
12	57
13	58
14	59
15	60
16	62
17	63
18	64
19	66
20	67
21	69
22	71
23	73
24	76
25	80
26	86
27	90

Grades 9–12	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	36
2	41
3	45
4	48
5	52
6	55
7	59
8	63
9	67
10	72
11	78
12	90

Grades 9–12	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	45
2	50
3	53
4	56
5	58
6	60
7	62
8	64
9	66
10	67
11	69
12	70
13	72
14	73
15	75
16	76
17	78
18	80
19	83
20	87
21	90

ATTACHMENT H
NYSESLAT
SCALE SCORE RANGES FOR DETERMINING
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

To determine a student's overall proficiency level, find the student's total scale score in the scale score ranges on this chart.

Grade	Entering	Emerging	Transitioning	Expanding	Commanding
	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score
K	120-212	213-244	245-263	264-315	316-360
1	120-164	165-214	215-252	253-297	298-360
2	120-180	181-227	228-264	265-307	308-360
3	120-170	171-216	217-258	259-303	304-360
4	120-181	182-228	229-265	266-310	311-360
5	120-172	173-214	215-257	258-300	301-360
6	120-180	181-219	220-258	259-300	301-360
7	120-169	170-212	213-249	250-299	300-360
8	120-169	170-212	213-249	250-305	306-360
9	120-175	176-220	221-262	263-317	318-360
10	120-175	176-220	221-262	263-317	318-360
11	120-178	179-220	221-262	263-317	318-360
12	120-178	179-220	221-262	263-317	318-360