

New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL)

Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How is the NYSITELL used?**

The NYSITELL serves as the State's formal English language proficiency assessment in the process for initially identifying English Language Learners (ELLs)/Multilingual Learners (MLLs) in New York State. The NYSITELL must be administered to eligible students within ten school days of their initial enrollment. All public and charter schools must follow the steps outlined in the initial and reentry processes prescribed by Commissioner's Regulations (CR) Part 154-2.3 (d), which includes administering the Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ) and conducting an individual interview with students who have indicated on the HLQ that a language other than English is spoken at home. Information gathered from the HLQ and the individual interview should be used to determine the student's language proficiency level.

**4. When will the administration of the 2018 NYSITELL begin?**

Level I of the updated NYSITELL will begin administration on June 1, 2018, and Levels II – VIII will begin February 1, 2018. With the exception of Level I, the NYSITELL should be administered during the month of June only to students entering school for the remainder of the current school year and/or students enrolling in a summer school program. The testing of new students who are enrolling in New York State schools in Grade 1 and above for the fall may begin no earlier than July 15. Schools are not permitted to administer Levels II–VIII of the NYSITELL from July 1–July 14.

**5. For students who register during the summer and are eligible to take the NYSITELL, when does the 10-day window for NYSITELL administration begin?**

Students who register during the summer must take the NYSITELL within 10 days of the first day of the school year.

**6. How is the NYSITELL administered?**

For Levels II-VIII, the Listening, Reading, and Writing subtests are contained in one test booklet and may be administered individually or in a group. The Speaking subtest is contained in a separate test booklet and is administered individually. During the Speaking subtest, the student individually answers questions orally. The student's spoken responses are scored at the time of administration. Level I consists of integrated Listening and Speaking questions in one test booklet. The entire Level I test must be individually administered. It is highly recommended that Levels II and III also be individually administered.

**7. Who can administer the NYSITELL?**

In public and charter schools, the staff administering the NYSITELL should be certified teachers or administrators. In religious and independent schools, it is highly recommended that the staff administering the NYSITELL be certified teachers. The qualified personnel (i.e. those who are able to carry out standard examination procedures) selected to administer the NYSITELL should have received special training in administering the NYSITELL and/or NYSESLAT and may include:

- New York State certified English to Speakers of Other Languages or Bilingual Education teachers
- New York State certified teachers who have been trained in cultural competency, language development, and the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)/Multilingual Learners (MLLs)
- New York State certified teachers 4 Tc 0.y AMC

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Sample NYSITELL questions for Level II-VIII can be found on pages 28-83 of the **Guide to the NYSITELL**. These items are intended to familiarize NYSITELL administrators with the types of questions on the test and are not to be used for student preparation.

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