

## Top Ten ELL/MLL Testing Accommodations FAQs<sup>1</sup>

### *Which ELLs are eligible for testing accommodations?*

All ELLs, regardless of proficiency level, and former ELLs within two years of exiting ELL status are entitled to receive ELL testing accommodations.

### *Which testing accommodations can we give ELLs on the state exams?*

ELLs and former ELLs within two years of exiting ELL status are entitled to the following accommodations:

- Time extension
- Separate location
- [Bilingual dictionaries/glossaries](#) (must provide one-to-one direct translation only)<sup>2</sup>
  - These cannot be used on state exams testing foreign language mastery (LOTE)
- Simultaneous use of English version and native language version on content area exams

### *Which testing accommodations for ELLs are mandatory?*

None. ELLs are entitled to the accommodations, but are not mandated to receive all of them if they will not be beneficial for the student. For example, an ELL does not need to take a Math exam in their home language if they cannot read or write in their home language.

### *What should we do if we think a student would benefit from a translated version of the exam?*

- Order a written translation of the exam in the state portal.
- If a written translation does not exist, schools can hire an oral translator.
  - Note: You will want to pay the translator to translate the student's written responses into English to facilitate scoring.
- Ensure that students ultimately choose only one booklet/language in which to write.

### *Are there any rules to follow if we do hire an oral translator?*

Yes. Oral translators must follow these rules:

- Cannot access the exam more than an hour prior to the exam's start time
- Must provide direct translation (i.e., no clarifications or explanations provided to the student)

### *Is the ELA exam available in other languages?*

No. However, ELLs may use bilingual glossaries when taking the Grades 3-8 ELA exam. These bilingual glossaries must provide only direct translations of words.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/english-language-learnermultilingual-learner-assessment-testing-accommodations>

<sup>2</sup> <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/resources/glossaries>



### *In which languages are the state exams currently available?*

- The Grades 3-8 state Math exam is currently available in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.
- The Grades 4 and 8 state Science exam is currently available in Chinese, Haitian Creole, and Spanish.
- The Regents content-area tests (Math, Science, and Social Studies) are currently available in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.

### *How can we provide next-day completion for ELLs who are scheduled to take multiple Regents Examinations on the same day?*

Principals must complete and submit the [Assurance of Next-Day Completion of Testing for English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners on Regents Examinations Form](#) for all eligible ELLs who will be receiving the next-day completion accommodation.<sup>3</sup> This assurance form must be mailed to the Office of State Assessment (OSA) and postmarked no later than the day before the administration of the affected Regents Examinations.

The student must complete the entire morning examination and at least the first part (Part 1 or Part A) of the afternoon examination (the second scheduled Regents Examination) on the date the Department scheduled the administration of those Regents Examinations. The student must then complete the remainder of the afternoon examination on the next school day.

### *Are ELLs exempt from any state exams?*

- In their first year as an identified ELL, ELLs are exempt from the 3-8 ELA Exam.
- Students who arrive in Grade 11 can be exempt from the Global History and Geography Regents Examination.
- Students arriving in Grade 12 can be exempt from the Global History and Geography and Science Regents Examinations.

### *Which testing accommodations can we give ELLs on the NYSESLAT?*

The NYSESLAT has ELL accommodations built in already, so ELLs do not receive accommodations on the NYSESLAT. If an ELL has an IEP, the student can receive the accommodations listed on the IEP with one exception. On the Writing subtest, students may NOT receive assistance or have their responses corrected for spelling, grammar, paragraphing, or punctuation.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/bilingual-ed/next-day-completion-accommodation.pdf>