

## ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT NEW YORK STATE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ACHIEVEMENT TEST (NYSESLAT) RESULTS

### Overview

The New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) dataset includes student-level records of tests administered during the 2002-03 to 2015-16 school years. The data are stored as comma separated value files (.csv).

The file is set up as a person-level data set, with each student having their own row of data. Each student has a unique, nine-digit, non-identifiable student identification number. Although the student id numbers are non-identifiable, they are linked across years.

### Universe of students included in dataset

For all years, any student who took any part of the NYSESLAT (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing) is included in the dataset, although missing values are included for those sections they did not take. Additionally, students that did not take all four parts could not have an overall proficiency level calculated, as a result, that variable value is missing.

### Pertinent information about achievement data

As of 2003, all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who receive ESL services take the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) every year to determine their English proficiency.

The NYSESLAT has 5 grade bands: K-1, 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12. The test itself consists of 4 parts: reading, writing, speaking and listening. The speaking section is administered individually; the other sections are group-administered. Students score at one of 4 proficiency levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Proficient. The latter groups being the criteria for losing LEP label. Proficiency level is calculated for language components (Listening/Speaking, Reading/Writing) separately. A “Combined Raw Score” is calculated by summing the respective sections. The combined raw score is then scaled and proficiency levels are determined.<sup>1</sup>

In order to align the NYSESLAT with New York State Common Core Learning Standards, NYSED created a new ELL proficiency level scale. NYSED also changed the raw score to scale score conversions. For more information regarding the updated proficiency levels and scoring conversions, please see the NYSESLAT page on NYSED’s website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/>. Additional information is also available upon request from the NYC DOE’s Research and Policy Support Group (RPSG).

### Note about 2019-20 and 2020-21 and “Special NYSITELL”

In 2019-20, the NYSESLAT was not administered. The exam was cancelled by NYSED due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Scaling is based on grade band. In other words, the raw to scale score conversion is not the same for all grades, but rather is done by grade band. Before 2006, Scale Score and Proficiency level for Listening/Speaking and Reading/Writing are not available. Overall proficiency level is available though.

In 2020-21, the NYSESLAT was only required for ELLs participating in blended learning during the Spring 2021 administration window, and the NYSESLAT was not administered to students who were learning remotely in spring 2021. Consequently, if you are also pulling exam records for "reasons not tested" there is a new reason that corresponds with "Receiving Entirely Remote Instruction" that you will encounter.

On the other hand, in Spring 2021 there were some "provisionally identified ELLs" that were unable to take the initial NYSITELL because they were learning fully remotely but could come to school to take the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT. Therefore, there might be a larger number of students who did not have an English language proficiency status prior to taking the NYSESLAT. These students might "exit" ELL status based on Spring 2021 NYSESLAT results and be considered former ELLs although they had no NYSITELL result and have ATS LEP Flag="P" accordingly. Therefore, any year-to-year comparisons should include this caveat of an incomplete/biased sample for the Spring 2021 results.

In Fall 2021, NYSED allowed a special administration of the NYSITELL for current ELLs that did were fully remote during the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT administration and were unable to complete the NYSESLAT. These special administration NYSITELL results are more like Spring 2021 NYSESLAT results; the exam was for current ELLs to update their existing English language proficiency level, rather than for initial identification of ELL status. Special administration NYSITELLS are reported in a separate file, called "Special NYSITELL" (available in NYSESLAT folders). Per state guidance, Fall 2021 Special Administration NYSITELLS were to "make up" NYSESLATs from SY2020-21. One application of this data is that NYSED advises if students score "Commanding" on the Fall 2021 Special Administration NYSITELL, they should be considered "exited" from ELL status backdated to SY2020-21. Both files should be used together to understand ELL placements. Because of these differences, we do not recommend comparing the 2020-21 NYSESLAT file to prior years.

Example File Name: "NYSESLAT\_2002-03\_Scrambled.csv"

FIELD	DATA TYPE	FIELD DESCRIPTION	VALID VALUES	
<b>student_id_scram</b>	Numeric	Non-personally identifiable student tracking number. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: To ensure that all student IDs are 9 digits, import the variable as test to keep leading zeroes.</li> </ul>	Nine-digit integer.	
<b>dbn</b>	String	The school code represented as a concatenation of the school district (D), school borough (B) and school number (N). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Districts 1-32: NYC Geographic Districts</li> <li>District 70: Students in Out of District Placements (students with disabilities)</li> <li>District 75: NYC Special Education District</li> <li>District 84: NYC Charter Schools</li> </ul>	Alphanumeric in the format 'DDBNNN'.	
<b>grade_level</b>	String	The student's grade level of enrollment when the student took the NYSESLAT.	0K	Kindergarten
			01	1 <sup>st</sup> grade
			02	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
			03	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade
			04	4 <sup>th</sup> grade
			05	5 <sup>th</sup> grade
			06	6 <sup>th</sup> grade
			07	7 <sup>th</sup> grade
			08	8 <sup>th</sup> grade
			09	9 <sup>th</sup> grade
			10	10 <sup>th</sup> grade
			11	11 <sup>th</sup> grade
12	12 <sup>th</sup> grade			
<b>year</b>	Numeric	Indicates the Spring of the school year in which the test administration occurred.	Four-digit numeric value.	
<b>test_level</b>	Numeric	Indicates the form/level of the exam administered. For most years, also denotes which grade band the test was administered to. Can be mostly ignored for analytic purposes. Typically serves a more administrative function in current data systems.	Numeric value.	
<b>test_season</b>	String	Indicates the season in which the exam was administered.	The only valid value is 'SPRING'.	
<b>listening_raw</b>	Numeric	Number of items answered correctly on listening subtest.	Numeric value.	
<b>speaking_raw</b>	Numeric	Number of items answered correctly on speaking subtest.	Numeric value.	
<b>reading_raw</b>	Numeric	Number of items answered correctly on reading subtest.	Numeric value.	
<b>writing_raw</b>	Numeric	Number of items answered correctly on writing subtest.	Numeric value.	
<b>overall_prof_level</b>	String	Overall proficiency level for NYSESLAT.	See Appendices 1 & 2 for values.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: NYSED changed the proficiency levels for the 2014-15 school year.</li> </ul>		
<b>scale_score_overall</b>	Numeric	Student's overall combined scale score for all subjects on the NYSESLAT.	Numeric value.	
<b>ADDITIONAL VARIABLES INCLUDED IN THE 2003-2012 FILES</b>				
<b>list_spk_raw</b>	Numeric	Sum of listening_raw and speaking_raw; number of items answered correctly on both sub-tests combined.	Numeric value.	
<b>list_spk_prof_lvl</b>	String	Proficiency level on Listening/Speaking language component.	B	Beginner
			I	Intermediate
			A	Advanced
			P	Proficient
<b>list_spk_ss</b>	Numeric	Scale score of Listening/Speaking language component.	Numeric value.	
<b>read_wrt_raw</b>	Numeric	Sum of reading_raw and writing_raw; number of items answered correctly on both sub-tests combined.	Numeric value.	
<b>read_wrt_prof_lvl</b>	String	Proficiency level on Reading/Writing language component.	B	Beginner
			I	Intermediate
			A	Advanced
			P	Proficient
<b>read_wrt_ss</b>	Numeric	Scale score of Reading/Writing language component.	Numeric value.	
<b>ADDITIONAL VARIABLES INCLUDED IN THE 2003-2011 FILES</b>				
<b>raw_score</b>	String	For the 2005-06 school year and earlier, the string variables denote the incomplete/partial tests administrations. After the 2005-06, the variable holds no consistent meaning.	ABS	Absent
			ADM	Administrative error
			INV	Invalid score
			LEP	Exempt LEP
			MED	Medically excused
			NSC	No score
			NTE	Not enrolled
			OTH	Exempt other
			REF	Refused to take the test
SPE	Exempt Special Ed			

### **Appendix 1: Overall Proficiency Levels from 2002-03 through 2013-14**

<b>Proficiency Level</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
B	Beginner
I	Intermediate
A	Advanced
P	Proficient

### **Appendix 2: Overall Proficiency Levels for 2014 to present**

<b>Proficiency Level</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Prior Proficiency Level Equivalent</b>
EN	Entering	Beginner
EM	Emerging	Low Intermediate
TR	Transitioning	Intermediate
EX	Expanding	Advanced
CM	Commanding	Proficient