



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Associate Commissioner
Office of Bilingual Education
and Foreign Language Studies

Assistant Commissioner
Office of Assessment, Standards
and Curriculum

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

From: Angelica Infante, Associate Commissioner
Candace H. Shyer, Assistant Commissioner

Subject: Change in Test Administration Window for Incoming Kindergartners Taking the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL)

The purpose of this correspondence is to advise you of a change in the test administration window for students entering Kindergarten who will be taking the NYSITELL.

As approved by the Board of Regents at its January 2014 meeting, the implementation of the NYSITELL began in schools across the State on February 1, 2014. This new set of tests replaced the Language Assessment Battery – Revised, which had been used for screening English language learners who were new to the State. The NYSITELL was implemented with an administration protocol requiring that it be administered no earlier than July 15 for students enrolling for the upcoming school year.

For students enrolling in Kindergarten in September, the new test administration window for the Level I NYSITELL will begin on June 1 instead of July 15, as was previously required. This change will be effective June 1, 2014, for new students who will be enrolling in Kindergarten in September 2014, and will be ongoing for future school years. Schools that are registering students prior to June 1 for enrollment in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year should not administer the NYSITELL to such students until that date.

The NYSITELL must be administered by a teacher trained to administer this test. Schools have such staff available at the end of the academic year to administer the NYSITELL to students enrolling in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year. This adjustment in the test administration window is intended to relieve schools of the necessity of having to otherwise employ qualified personnel for this purpose during the months of July and August.

Please note that the [Guide to the NYSITELL](#) will be updated to reflect this change. However, test materials will still reflect the July 15 original date until existing supplies in schools and the State Education Department's inventory have been depleted and updated editions have been disseminated. When referring to the table on page 5 in the Guide, it is important to note that the Level II test must be administered to any new entrants who are enrolling in Kindergarten for the current school year at any time between February 1 and June 30. The Level I test should be administered during the month of June only to those new entrants who will not begin Kindergarten until September. For example, if on June 3, a new entrant enrolls in Kindergarten for the remainder of the current school year, the Level II test is to be administered to that student.

Please submit any questions concerning this matter to emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov.