



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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September 2021

**TO:** Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools

**FROM:** Elisa Alvarez  
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**SUBJECT:** Extension of the End Date to October 29, 2021 for the COVID-19 Related Special Administration of the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners

This memorandum is to announce an extension to the end date for the one-time special administration of the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) being given to address the adverse impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in preventing some English language learners (ELLs) from being able to participate in the Spring 2021 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

Due to the extraordinary challenges associated with the reopening of schools this September, brought about by the ongoing pandemic, it is anticipated that some New York State schools may have difficulty and services as required by Commissioner's Regulation 100.12(b) in person while adhering to the district's safety protocols of Health.

As explained in our [May 2021 announcement](#), the those ELLs who received entirely remote instruction during the 2020-21 school year and did not participate in the 2021 NYSESLAT are permitted for any ELLs who completed the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT.

If you have questions about student eligibility or NYSITELL, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education at [ELL@doe.ny.gov](mailto:ELL@doe.ny.gov).

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