



Bilingual Education Programs  
English as a New Language (ENL)  
Home Language Supports (HLS)  
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)  
Latino Studies & Supports

March 16, 2021

Dear Rochester City School District Parent:

I am writing to you today to provide an update on the administration of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). You are receiving this letter because our system indicates that you are a parent of an English Language Learner (ELL).

Each spring, English Language Learners take the NYSESLAT, which is a three-part exam that provides information on the student's language growth in all four language skills - speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The exam results provide the proficiency level that the student has achieved in English. Based on the test results, the student is assigned the level of English as a New Language (ENL) service for the following school year.

New York State Education Department (NYSED) has determined that it will not be possible to administer any of this year's State assessments remotely. Therefore, the NYSESLAT is available for administration to those ELLs who are able to test in-person (while not requiring it for those who cannot safely and fairly participate). Taking the NYSESLAT will give your child the opportunity to exit ELL status, if appropriate, and ensure appropriate levels of English as a New Language services the following school year.

Since your child is currently in remote learning, the District would like to invite your child to participate in this year's NYSESLAT assessment, which will take place at the end of May and first week in June. If you would like your child to participate in this year's NYSESLAT, please call your school to inform them that your child will come to school to take the exam in person. Once the number of students testing is confirmed, you will receive detailed information, such as the date and time your child will be tested.

If your child does not take the exam, he or she will remain in the same proficiency level and will receive the same level of service the following year. There is no adverse consequence. If your child is in grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> and has a proficiency level of entering or emerging, it will benefit students to take the exam. A higher proficiency level will result in less ENL services, which will allow more room in the schedule to take other required courses or elective classes.

If you choose not to participate, no action is required. If you would like your child to participate in this year's NYSESLAT, please call your school by **April 16<sup>th</sup>** to let the school know that your child will take the exam.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call the Department of Multilingual Education at 262-8234 or email me at [Abel.perezpherett@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Abel.perezpherett@rcsdk12.org)

Sincerely

*Abel Pérez*

Abel Pérez Pherett  
Director of Multilingual Education

Phone: 585-262-8270  
[www.rcsdk12.org/dome](http://www.rcsdk12.org/dome)

Department of Multilingual Education  
131 W. Broad St. Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: (585) 262-8234