

## **New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test**

*This document is intended to help families, students, educators, and the public to better understand the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), and interpret the 2016 NYSESLAT Score Report for each English Language Learner (ELL) / Multilingual Learner (MLL).*

The New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) is designed to annually assess the English language proficiency of all English Language Learners (ELLs) / Multilingual Learners (MLLs) enrolled in Grades K–12. The NYSESLAT is one component of the State’s compliance with federal laws that mandate annually assessing and monitoring the English Language proficiency progress of all ELLs. As prescribed by New York State Education Department’s Commissioner’s Regulations Subparts 154-2 and 154-3, the results of the Spring 2017 NYSESLAT were used to determine the type and amount of 2017-2018 services provided to ELLs in Bilingual Education and English as a New Language (ENL) programs.

In addition to federal reporting, NYSESLAT results help to inform instruction aligned to the New York State Learning Standards (NYLS), Blueprint for ELL Success (BELLS) and Bilingual Common Core Initiative’s (BCCI’s) Home/New Language Arts Progressions, therefore, for each ELL/MLL ensuring academic and language development success in school and beyond.

### **Understanding the NYSESLAT Score Report**

Each Spring, ELL/MLL students in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade take the NYSESLAT. The NYSESLAT results provide important information about each ELL’s/MLL’s English Language development which drives adequate and appropriate classroom support in the following school year. After the test, families receive score reports that explain how their children performed. This document explains the different sections of the NYSESLAT score report.

An ELL/MLL student’s performance on the Spring 2017 NYSESLAT indicates his or her level of English language proficiency in relation to the linguistic demands of the grade-level classroom. These proficiency levels (Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, and Commanding) indicate the type and amount of English language support each ELL/MLL student will receive to participate productively in the grade-level content-area classroom. Thus, a student who scores at the highest proficiency level of Commanding on the Spring 2017 NYSESLAT has, for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond, met the linguistic demands necessary to meet the discipline-specific standards with minimal support. The Commanding student has exited ELL status and is no longer considered an English Language Learner. However, for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, the Commanding student is entitled to Former ELL services, including, but not limited to accommodations on New York State assessments.

Students receive a scale score<sup>1</sup> for each language modality<sup>2</sup> (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). In addition, each student receives an overall scale score, which is the sum of the student's scale scores for all four language modalities. In order to be considered proficient in the English language on the NYSESLAT, students need to have an overall scale score at the Commanding level.

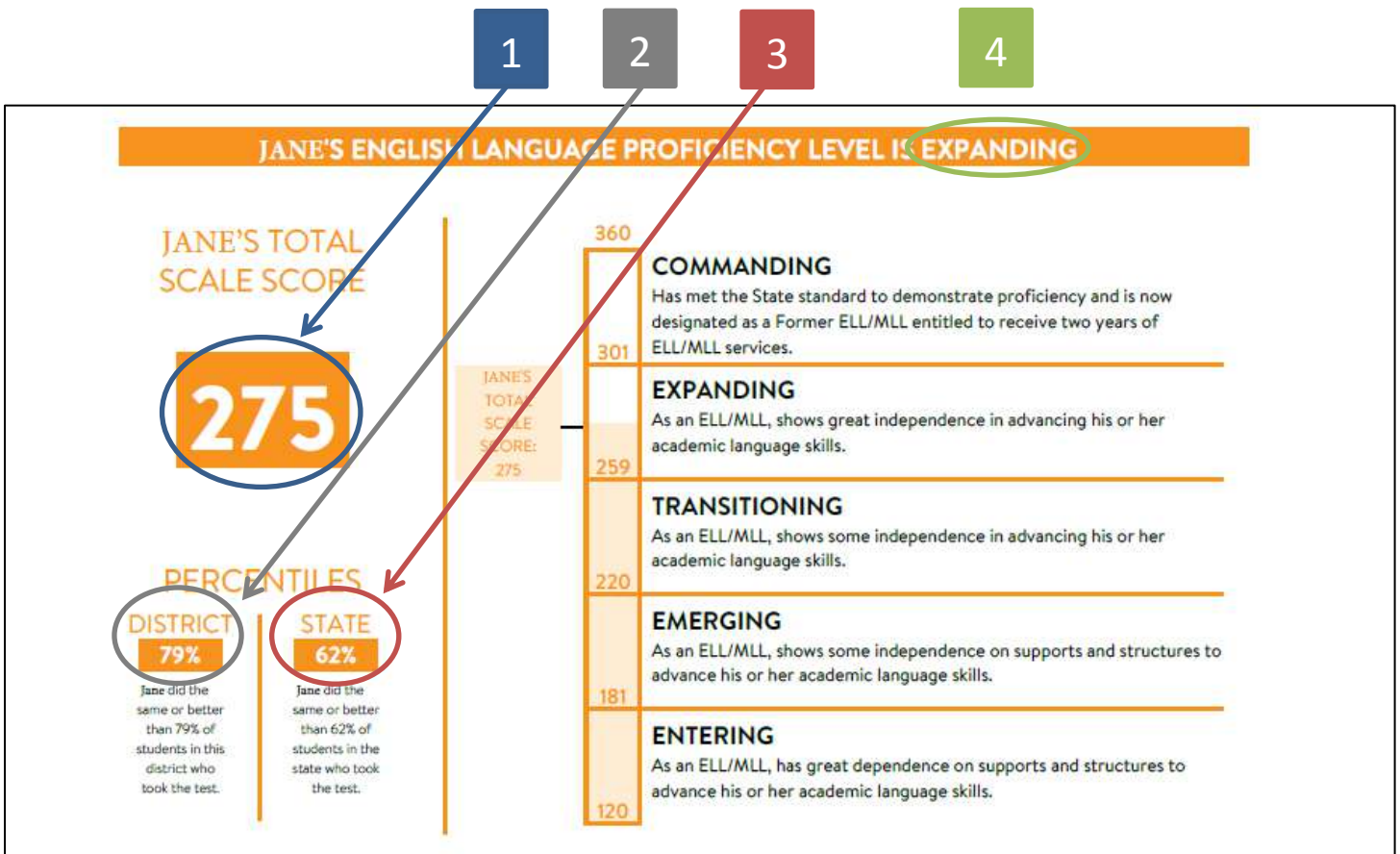
We encourage you to work with your child's teachers and other educators to put together a plan to specifically target your child's English proficiency needs. If you are concerned by your child's overall score, or by your child's performance on a specific modality score, we encourage you to:

- Ask your child's teacher about whether your child may need additional support with specific English language skills.
- Talk to your child's teacher and/or the principal to see if your child may need any additional, targeted assistance, and if so;
- Advocate for your child to receive additional help since parents are the best advocates for a child's education. Parents may request additional resources or information on the NYSESLAT that can support a child at home

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<sup>1</sup> A student's raw score reflects the total number of points that a student earned on a test. A scale score is a converted version of the raw score. It is put on a common scale so that test scores can be compared from one year to the next.

<sup>2</sup> The NYSESLAT is made up of four *modalities*, or sub-tests. These modalities are Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

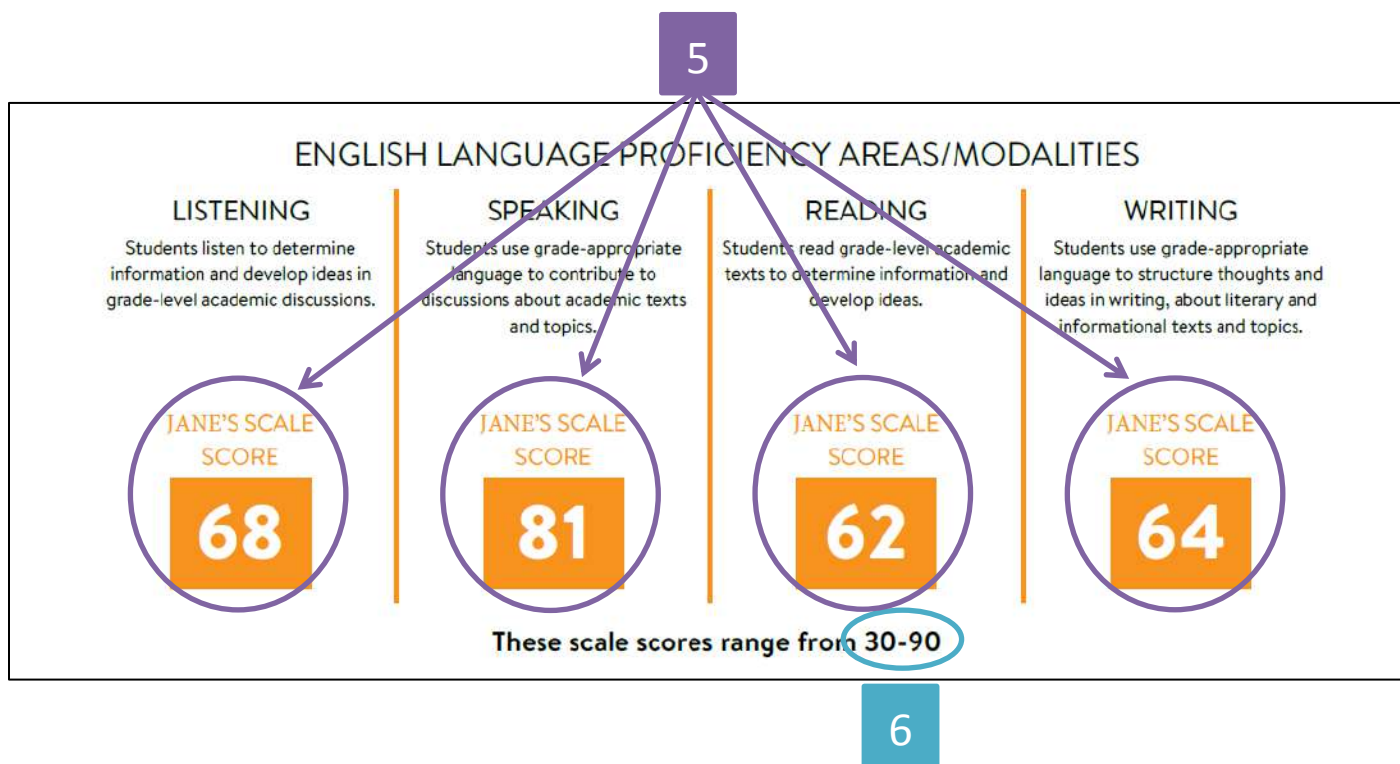


- 1 Total Scale Score:** The Total Scale Score is determined by the number of points that your child earned on the NYSESLAT. A scale is used so that the test results will mean the same thing year after year even though different students are taking the test with different questions. The higher the number of points your child earned, the higher his or her scale score will be. Scale scores are most meaningful when they are associated with a performance level<sup>3</sup>. The table to the right of the Total Scale Score shows the ranges associated with each performance level for your child’s grade level.
- 2 District Percentile Rank:** The District Percentile Rank compares your child’s scale score to the scale scores of the rest of the students at the same grade level who took the NYSESLAT this year. Percentile ranks are reported on a scale of 1–99. For example, if your child has an Overall District Percentile Rank of 60, it means that your child’s scale score was the same or higher than that of 60% of all students in the district who took the NYSESLAT. The higher the Overall District Percentile Rank, the better your child did compared to other students in the District.

<sup>3</sup> A performance level describes where a student is along the continuum of English language acquisition. The current NYSESLAT has five performance levels: Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, and Commanding.

**3 State Percentile Rank:** The State Percentile Rank compares your child’s scale score to the scale scores of the rest of the students in the State at the same grade level who took the NYSESLAT this year.

**4 Your Child’s Overall Proficiency Level:** The Overall Proficiency Level indicates the level of performance that your child achieved on the NYSESLAT based on his or her Total Scale Score. The NYSESLAT has five performance levels.



**5 Listening/Speaking/Reading/Writing Scale Scores:** Scale scores for each modality (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) are calculated based on points earned on groups of questions on the NYSESLAT that measure those skills. Modality scale scores provide additional information about how your child performed. The higher the modality score, the better your child performed on that specific modality. As described above, modality scores are added to create a Total Scale Score.

**6 Scale Score Range:** The Scale Score Range for each modality of the 2017 NYSESLAT is 30-90. In other words, all scores on each modality will be a number within this range.