

ESL – English as Second Language

This is the name of the program that teaches English to students whose native language is a language other than English.

ELL – English Language Learner

This term defines the student who is learning English as a second or other language. It is also the name given to the program that teaches English to non-native speakers. ELL and ESL are used interchangeably.

LEP – Limited English Proficient

This term defines the status of the students who are learning English. While the students are enrolled in an ESL / ELL program, they are considered to be LEP.

NYSESLAT – New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test

This is a state assessment that is administered every Spring to LEP students who are currently in an ESL / ELL program. The test was first administered in 2003. NCLB mandates that all English Language Learners (K-12) be assessed every year to measure their English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and track their annual progress towards proficiency. The NYSESLAT consists of four subtests in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each subtest is administered separately to ELL students in small groups.

NYSESLAT proficiency levels:

- Beginner (2 mods of ESL)
- Intermediate (2mods of ESL)
- Advanced (1mod of ESL)

- Proficient (not enrolled in ESL, no longer takes NYSESLAT, allowed up to 2 years of transitional services/accommodations)