

MULTILINGUAL MATTERS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2020-2021 Issue 10

April 23, 2021



DIVISION OF MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

Buffalo Public Schools

access | equity | excellence

CELEBRATIONS AND BRIGHT SPOTS

Shout Outs!

Shout out to the administrators, teachers, and staff at Schools 3, 6, 18, 19, 30, 33, 45, 48, 59, 64, 76 and 94 for their flexibility and support during on-site administration of the NYSITELL!

Shout out to teachers at Schools 3, 30, 33, 48, 64, 76, and 156 for all of your hard work launching the ENIL assessment!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ramadan

Please see attached memo regarding the observance of Ramadan, a holy month observed by billions of Muslims around the world, including many of our students and families.

ELA Exempt Students in Grades 3-8

According to page nine of the School Administrators Manual for ELA:

English Language Learners (ELLs)

- Schools are permitted to exempt from the English Language Arts Tests only those English Language Learners (ELLs) (including those from Puerto Rico) who, on April 1, 2021, will have been attending school in the United States for the first time for less than one year.
- Recently arrived ELLs may be eligible for one, and only one, exemption from the administration of the New York State Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests.
- Subject to this limitation, schools may administer the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in lieu of the Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests, for participation purposes only, to recently arrived ELLs who meet the criteria above. All other ELLs must participate in the Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests, as well as in the NYSESLAT.

It is important for each school to examine their list to verify their students' eligibility under these guidelines. Exemption data is drawn from a variety of data fields in IC. Please note that following the release of this list to principals, student information may be updated in Infinite Campus. If there are any discrepancies or questions please report them to the Division of Multilingual Education (mmpopo@buffaloschools.org) to ensure they are tagged correctly in Infinite Campus for NYSED reporting. Please include the students' name and 900 numbers and evidence that they should or should not be included on the ELA exempt list.

We have attached in the Weekly Bulletin to Principals the list of students who are currently attending in-person or hybrid that have been administered the NYSITELL, and according to our records, qualify for an exemption. If there are any additional provisionally-identified or pending ELLs that meet the criteria for an exemption, have expressed an interest in attending the ELA administration, and need the NYSITELL in order to formally be considered to be exempt, please let us know.

For more information regarding testing and accountability for recently arrived ELLs, see Assessment and Accountability for Recently Arrived and Former Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students guidance.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/documents/2020-21SIRSMannual16-9.pdf>

(April 9, 2021)

How to Access the File: Directives from State Ed. and the Attorney General's Office have outlined the importance of protecting the privacy of students and their families in regard to their immigration status. Certain data elements are no longer supposed to be collected and sent to NYSED. These ELL files should not be shared outside the district with non-BPS employees.

The file is set up with filters tabs. To isolate your school, use the filtering arrow under the column labeled School Name 2020-2021.

Please review this link below on the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act which protects the privacy of student education records. See link below.

<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>

Interpreters for NYS 3-8 Mathematics Examination

NYS Interpreter Requests NYS Exam windows are quickly approaching, and it is necessary for building administrators or designee to complete the spreadsheet that was shared with principals so that the Division of Multilingual can request the appropriate interpreters for the Math Exams. It is imperative that an accurate number of ALL ELLs and former ELLs who are requesting interpreters is provided so that multilingual aides are assigned accordingly, and then additional requests are placed to contracting agencies.

Please note, any multilingual aides at the elementary level will remain in their building to support with oral translation at their respective building for Math assessments. At this time, multilingual aides at the high school will not be utilized for the NYS math assessments. Additional information related to aides and assistants will be forthcoming.

Please note – the Excel file has TWO tabs to be filled out. The first tab is the student information (numbers of students by grade and language). The second tab should be filled out to include all multilingual aides housed in your school and what languages they speak. BOTH TABS should be filled in completely and add rows as needed. When filling out the student information tab, it is important to ask the student to ensure they would like an interpreter. Students who have received the content of the assessment solely in English are unlikely to benefit from the use of an interpreter and may feel more comfortable taking the exams in English. Interpretation is just one (and the most difficult) accommodation that our ELL students MAY receive. The full list of accommodations will be available in the 2021 School Administrators Manual. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenna Colerick (jcolerick@buffaloschools.org). Return completed files to Abdi Yakub at ayakub@buffaloschools.org no later than April 23rd, 2021.

NYSESLAT

Please find attached guidance documents regarding NYSESLAT administration, as sent via email from Division liaisons. Included is the NYSESLAT memorandum, released to Principals via the Weekly Bulletin from the Office of Shared Accountability. Please note, there will be no matches made between buildings for Speaking administration this year, as it is not required that only ENL teachers administer the NYSESLAT. Please also note that, according to the 2021 NYSESLAT School Administrators Manual, “teachers may their own students’ responses for the Speaking and Writing questions”. Should you need support brainstorming ideas in which to structure administration at your respective building, please let us know.

Students who will be taking the NYSESLAT and have been attending in person or hybrid, must have had the NYSITELL administered prior to the NYSESLAT being administered. The Division of Multilingual Education will be reaching out to building administrators within the next few days to schedule any students that this may impact at each respective building.

NYSESLAT Training 2021

For teachers who have never administered the NYSESLAT, and who have yet to receive initial training, an asynchronous option is available, entitled *Multilingual- Asynchronous- New ENL Teacher Training Series- NYSESLAT Administration* (Course #31767). The asynchronous option is an additional offering for teachers to complete the course during the instructional day should they not be available to attend the after-hours session. Compensation will not be provided for the asynchronous option.

Speaking Recalibration Training is also required yearly for anyone involved in the administration of the speaking portion of the NYSESLAT. It is in addition and not in lieu of the NYSESLAT New Teacher Training. This training will provide any updates and/or changes, and appropriate administration and scoring guidance. Pre-COVID, ENL teachers and others

involved in the Speaking administration would attend training in a centralized location during the instructional day. This year, the Speaking Recalibration training will still occur during the instructional day, but has been transferred into asynchronous offerings to allow for additional flexibility for participants to receive the training within their respective buildings. Please for the course entitled *MULTI - NYSESLAT Recalibration Training for all Teachers Administering NYSESLAT to Students* (Course #31767)

March 2021 ELL/MLL List

Please see attached for the most recent ELL List. This list was released to Principals via the Weekly Bulletin. The spreadsheet is password protected, and the password is the same as in the past. Please note, you will see the Pending ELL tab at the bottom of this document. Pending ELLs are in the process of being administered the NYSITELL. The NYSITELL renders proficiency levels for students. It is imperative to note that a student cannot be administered the NYSESLAT until they have been administered the NYSITELL. A student who has not been administered the NYSITELL will be identified as a pending student. Please note that pending students are changing daily for the most up-to-date information regarding pending students, please visit the EL tab in Infinite Campus. . Note, there is an additional column that indicates if the student is attending in person or hybrid. Most up-to date information on each student can be found in the EL tab. As the NYSITELL is continuing to be administered daily to students, we recommend referencing the EL tab for any questions related to students.

BPS Native American Resource Program

Please find attached the latest edition of the BPS Native American Resource Program (NARP) newsletter. Enjoy!
In addition:

- We are excited to offer more cultural activities this month. For more information on our activities, please visit our program webpage under the “Cultural Craft & Activity Workshops” tab at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/95384>.
- Please help us plan for next school year and help us ensure that the needs and desires of our students and community are being met by completing the BPS Title VI Needs Assessment by April 12, 2021. Your voice matters! The survey can be accessed at: <https://forms.gle/RPcNTLFQGLgh3zH67>
- The BPS Title VI Public Hearing will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 6:00pm-7:00pm. For more information, please visit our program webpage under the “Title VI Public Hearing” tab at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/97151>.

Talking Points

Talking Points is currently recruiting Karen translators, in effort to add Karen to the platform. Additional information is attached. Please share with anyone who might be interested.

Provisional ELL Identification

It is important to note that all of last year's Pre-K, who are now in Grade K are listed as pending. The reason for this is that the NYSITELL cannot be given to Pre-K students until June 1 or later of the PK year, and we have not been able to give any NYSITELL assessments since the period of remote learning began in March 2020. This applies to all new students who have enrolled since March 16, 2020 as well. ENL instructional services for pending students should be determined based upon a variety of data points, including the IRLA, DIBELs, etc. It's important to note that all students who are listed as Pending ELLs are required to receive services according to NY C.R. Part 154.

We Are Hiring!

Please share with colleagues that we are currently accepting applications for the positions of [Bilingual Teacher](#) and [ENL Teacher](#). Should you have any questions regarding recruitment, please contact Alicia Barinas (Bilingual) at abarinas@buffaloschools.org or Jenna Colerick (ENL) at jcolerick@buffaloschools.org. Thank you!



New York State Association of Bilingual Education (NYSABE) Conference 2021

Please see attached flyer for the 2021 NYSABE Conference, which runs from May 20-22. The flyer and other event information is also available on the [NYSABE website](#). Links to register are forthcoming.

New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYSTESOL)

NYSTESOL is offering on going professional development opportunities for teachers. You do not need to be a member to participate in the offerings so please take a moment to see what upcoming PD opportunities they are offering

<https://nystesol.org/>

Adult Education Classes

The BPS Adult Education Department would like to share that they are holding virtual classes for all levels of English, and at all different times of day (morning, afternoon and evening). There is a quick registration form on the Adult Education website, or you can share this link with anyone who is interested, <https://www.upskill.org/>

RESOURCES

ELL/MLL Acronym Chart

Educators of ELLs/MLLs can refer to the attached acronym chart for easy reference to terminology related to ELLs/MLLs in BPS.

NYU/Steinhardt & RBE-RN Multilingual Glossaries

Please ensure that students are able to access the NYU Steinhardt/RBE-RN Multilingual glossaries, linked below. While these glossaries are consistently used for assessments, they should also be offered to students as a resource throughout the school year.

[NYS Statewide RBE-RN Bilingual Glossaries and Cognates](#)

REMINDERS

School-Based Parent Meetings

Please remember to schedule meetings with parents of ELLs/MLLs, in accordance with **[NY CR Part 154 2.3\(f\)\(5\)](#)**. Please note that these meetings must occur once per year and must be scheduled in addition to parent teacher conferences, quarterly progress meetings, and all other meetings provided to parents of all students. The Division will provide exemplars of said meetings in the upcoming issue.

Pre-K Enrollment

The Division would like to remind families that there are seats available for Pre-K students. Families can register their children for Pre-K programming and secure an iPad for their child. All enrolled students are also eligible for free meals. Please see attached translated flyer for details.

ENL Stand-Alone Supports

The Division of Multilingual Education has created an eLearning folder in the **BPS Teachers of Multilingual Learners** group. The folder is located in the resources tab, which is found on the left under the group logo. The eLearning folder contains hundreds of resources including translated documents and stand-alone resources from ARC, such as FSTK, book baskets (coming), and leveling materials, as well as resources from Bridges-SIFE, FCRR, Heggerty and more. The resources are separated K-6 and 7-12 and there is a word

document for K-6 (see below) with live links that you can save to your device for quick access. Click [here](#) to go directly to the eLearning folder.

ARC Bookshelf Parent Accounts

Some good news! Parents are able to receive 20 free ARC (American Reading Company) Bookshelf books for their child! Parents need to create a parent account and then they are eligible to choose 20 ARC books for free! We have included the link below with full instructions for you to send to parents.

<https://www.americanreading.com/documents/20-free-ebooks-redemption-instructions.pdf>

The message below can be sent to parents via Talking Points to link families to ARC Bookshelf. Please note that the link and the message should be sent separately:

Hello parents,
As your child continues to improve her/his reading, you can read online books for free! Follow the link below. Create an account. Then, being choosing books by clicking on “bookshelf”. Before completing your order, please click on “add coupon” to make this a free order. Please feel free to reply with questions. Thank you!

www.americanreadingathome.com/account/create/

Family Supports and Methods of Communication

Communication with families is imperative, especially during this time of remote learning. Please know that we have a variety of supports in which you can connect with parents they are the following, staff and teachers within your school building, Talking Points, Language Line, Journey’s End Academic Coaches and the Registration Cultural Aides who work out of Central Registration. Please click [here](#) to access our Language Supports document, a reference for appropriate use of language services.