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July 2018

**TO:** NYSAA District Test Coordinators  
NYSAA Building Test Coordinators  
Directors of Special Education  
Directors of Pupil Personnel Services

**FROM:** Steven E. Katz *Steven E. Katz*

**SUBJECT:** The Provision of Oral Translations for the New York State Alternate Assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

The New York State Alternate Assessments (NYSAA) in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science are administered using the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) computer-based adaptive assessments. Those NYSAA-eligible students whose home language is other than English may face additional challenges with participation in the NYSAA. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is following the recommendations from DLM regarding the provision of oral translation, as outlined in the current Test Administration Manual under Accessibility Supports (<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/newyork>).

The DLM test system does not provide translated forms of the NYSAA; it is available in the English language only. Therefore, when testing English Language Learners in the NYSAA, it is permissible for a school to orally translate text that is visible on the computer screen into the student's home language. In addition, for the writing question in the ELA Writing Testlet, English Language Learners (ELLs) may provide their responses in their home languages, unless exceptions are noted in the Testlet Information Page (TIP) or at the beginning of a test section. Districts and schools should plan for translation services, as they are responsible for the translation process and procedure.

NYSED's Office of Bilingual Education and World Language (phone 518-474-8775) and the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERNs) can assist schools in locating people who can aid in the translations. A directory of the RBERNs is available at <http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/regional-supportrberns>.