July 15, 2020

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
BOCES District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders
English as a New Language, Bilingual Education & World Languages Directors
Organizations, Parents/Guardians and Individuals Concerned with English
Language Learners/Multilingual Learners and World Languages Students

FROM: Elisa Alvarez, Associate Commissioner

RE: Provision of Services to English Language Learners and World Languages Students During Statewide School Closures Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak in New York State

EXCERPT From FAQ included in Message (Pgs. 12-13)

8. The 2020 New York State English As A Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. How shall school districts determine how many units of study an ELL is entitled to in the 2020-21 school year?

School districts shall serve ELLs in 2020-21 according to their 2019-20 level of English language proficiency. For the 2020-21 school year, districts are to schedule all ELLs according to their mandated units of study for their level of English language proficiency (Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding) in 2019-20. NYSED is actively exploring additional flexibility through temporary emergency changes regarding Former ELL services in the form of Integrated ENL or other Former ELL services approved by the Commissioner under section 154-2.3(h) of the Commissioner's regulations in 2020-21.

The English as New Language (ENL) Units of Study are the required minimum number of minutes of Stand Alone and Integrated ENL instruction provided, depending on the student's English language proficiency level. One unit of study under Commissioner's Regulations Part 100.1(a) is equivalent to at least 180 minutes of instruction per week throughout the school year. School districts can provide additional ENL units of study as they feel necessary to address the linguistic needs, oral language development, writing and reading skills, academic vocabulary, and content knowledge of their ELLs, as long as they are provided with the same educational opportunities as their peers. Some suggested instructional best practices were outlined in Question & Answer #4.

These units are available at: Units of Study Tables for English as a New Language (ENL) and Bilingual Education Programs. OBEWL's website has been updated to reflect regulatory flexibility and best practices for instructional equity during COVID-19-related closures.