

Department of Bilingual Education Newsletter

Margot Wareham-Bailey, Director

TOGETHER *Helping Children Do More, Be More*

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RULE CHANGES IN USING THE NYSESLAT IN LIEU OF GRADE 3-8 ELA EXAM

◇ **A student may be exempt from the New York State ELA only one time in his/her lifetime.**

For example, a student was exempt from the ELA in third grade because he was enrolled in schools in the United States for less than one year. He returns to El Salvador in fifth grade and re-enters the United States in seventh grade, having been in El Salvador for two years. Previously the student could be ELA exempt again. **However, under the new regulations the student may no longer be exempt from the ELA in seventh grade because he has already used his one-time ELA exemption.**

◇ **For exemption purposes Puerto Rico now counts as a country outside the United States .**

◇ **VALID Scores.** An eligible ELA exempt student who takes the NYSESLAT in lieu of the grade 3- ELA counts in the participation calculation for accountability proposes as participating in an ELA assessment **only if they have a VALID score on all parts of the NYSESLAT.**

◇ **Giving ELA instead of NYSESLAT to an eligible ELA exempt student.** If the school decides to give the ELA assessment to an eligible ELA exempt LEP student, the ELA exempt ELL student's ELA score will count in computing the school's and district's accountability performance index. You're stuck with the results

Ordering 2010 NYSESLAT Tests

A letter with a NYSESLAT USER'S GUIDE FOR ENROLLMENT OF OPERATIONAL TESTS attached was recently sent to school building principals regarding **ordering the 2010 NYSESLAT**. Pearson sent an e-mail reminder to all the school building principals on January 8, 2010.

If you are the principal's designee for ordering the NYSESLAT, please ask your principal for the letter and the user's guide. Also before placing the order make certain that you have an accurate count, by grade and testing level, of all the LEP and LLEP students who must take the NYSESLAT in 2010 . A memo was sent to your principal from the bilingual department with those counts. Please add 15% to each grade level tally to account for new entrants. The NYSESLAT USER'S GUIDE FOR ENROLLMENT OF OPERATIONAL TESTS is self-explanatory. Follow the directions carefully.

The ordering window will open Wednesday, January 6, 2010. All initial orders should be placed by Friday, February 5, 2010.

Questions can be directed to the Pearson Customer Support Center (CSC) at 1-888-705-9415 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET. The CSC may also be reached by e-mail at nyeslat.custsvc@support.pearson.com.

Our NLA Staff Receives Professional Development Training

On January 22, 2010 at the Western Suffolk BOCES **Wendi Hasbun, NLA Hempstead High School** and **Elias Mestizo, NLA ABGS Middle School**, attended two workshops presented in collaboration with the Long Island BETAC Network and the Spanish BETAC at NYU entitled **Strategies and Resources for Second Native Language Arts Teachers**. The morning workshop was entitled *Using Dramatic Arts in the Native Language Arts Classroom* and the afternoon workshop was entitled *Native Language Arts Strategies and Resources*.

FREE HELP & ENRICHMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS
Attention: Secondary Counselors & Teachers
Hofstra University presents
The STEP Program for our students

Purpose: To support students interested in pursuing careers in math, science, technology, or those that require pre-licensure fields.

When: **Saturdays** from 10:00 am –12:00 pm at Hofstra University **during the school year**
Note: Special activities have different hours and days.

Where: **Hofstra University**

Cost: **Free**

Dates: Ongoing registration throughout the year

How to Apply: Call **516-463-5309 or 516-463-6297** for more information and/or for an application

Eligibility (grades 7-12)

- ◆ NYS resident from one of the following groups, including **African-American, Hispanic/Latino**, Native American Indian or Alaskan native.
- ◆ NYS resident from other groups that meet the **economically disadvantaged** criteria as outlined by the NYS Education Dept.
- ◆ The selection committee will also take into account such factors as motivation, academic grades, interest in mathematics and sciences, career interests in NYS licensed professions and potential for success in the program.

Programs and Activities

- ◆ Enrichment and review classes including regents, SAT and ACT preparation.
- ◆ Student research opportunities and hands-on laboratory experiences.
- ◆ New York Statewide STEP Conference with student research presentations and collegiate professional development workshops.
- ◆ Cultural and career-centered field trips.
- ◆ College tours throughout NYS and USA.
- ◆ Colloquia featuring topics in science, technology and other program-related topics.
- ◆ Mentorship via Collegiate Science Technology Entry Program and other similar college programs.
- ◆ National Society of Black Engineers/pre-Collegiate Initiative.
- ◆ Mathematics Team competitions.
- ◆ Science Bowl competitions.
- ◆ Parent Involvement in Education (PIE).

There is also a **SUMMER SCHOLARS ACADEMY** for 4-6 weeks. Call **516-463-5309 or 516-463-6297** for more information.

Building Academic Vocabulary Workshop

In collaboration with HEINLE CENGAGE Learning, NYS Spanish BETAC, will be offering the workshop **Building Academic Vocabulary for English Language Learners in Content Area and Language Classes**, which will take place on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at New York University.

The morning session will be from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm** and is for **Middle School Teachers** of ELL's of the following subjects: Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts and English as a Second Language. The afternoon session will be from **12:00 pm - 3:00 pm** and is for **High School Teachers** of ELL's of the following subjects: Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts and English as a Second Language.

Sign up as soon as possible by sending an email to nyssbetac@gmail.com with "**BUILDING VOCABULARY FOR ELLs - FEB 11th AM (or) PM**" in the subject line.

