



TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
P-12 Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Program Administrators
Alternative Transition Program Administrators

FROM: Kimberly Young Wilkins, Deputy Commissioner P-12 *Kimberly Young Wilkins*
Kevin G. Smith, Deputy Commissioner ACCES *Kevin G. Smith*

SUBJECT: Policy for Extended Testing Time for High School Equivalency Exam for P12
Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Program (AHSEP) Students and
Alternative Transition Program Students who are English Language Learners (ELL)

DATE: September 3, 2019

As per Education Law Section 3205(1)(c) and Commissioners Regulation Part 100.7(h), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) approves programs which provide educational services to students - at least 16 and under 21 years of age - who are either at risk of dropping out of school, or have dropped out, without obtaining their high school diploma or its equivalent.

School districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may be approved to operate P-12 Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Programs (AHSEP) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) may be approved to operate Alternative Transition Programs (ATP).

As per Figure 1, in 2018 there were 247 AHSEPs serving 15,186 students.

Figure 1

Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Programs	Number of programs	Statewide enrollment
School districts and BOCES	116	15,186
NYCDOE	119	
OCFS	12	

As per Figure 2, in 2018 there were 38 ATPs serving 806 students.

Figure 2

Alternative Transition Programs	Number of programs	Statewide enrollment
	38	806

Data on the number of English Language Learners (ELL) in AHSEPs and ATPs is neither collected nor reported at the state level.

NYSED P-12 Policy Regarding Identification of ELLs:

Students are officially designated as ELLs via the 2018 edition of the NYS Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL). The NYSITELL serves as the state's English language proficiency assessment of ELLs. Students who are new immigrants and enroll in the New York City Department of Education for the first time are administered the TABE Class E assessment instead of the NYSITELL.

ELLs and the High School Equivalency Exam:

The exam administered within NYS to obtain a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma, is the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™). Effective immediately, the testing accommodation of extended time when taking the TASC is available to ELLs.

The provision of extended time - or a maximum of one and one-half times (1.5x) the regular length of time permitted to take the TASC™ - is the **only** testing accommodation available to ELLs under this policy. The use of a bilingual glossary, as outlined in the P-12 policy for ELLs, is not a testing accommodation allowed when taking the TASC™, as the use of such may compromise the validity of the exam. Please contact the High School Equivalency Office at HSE@nysed.gov or 518-474-5906 if you have any questions.

Thank you.