ORGANIZATION OF LAB-R & NEW YORK STATE IDENTIFICATION TEST FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (NYSITELL)

Overview

The LAB-R dataset includes student-level records of the LAB-R exam for the school years 2002-03 through 2012-13. In February 2014, the LAB-R was replaced by the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL). As a result the 2013-14 dataset will include LAB-R exams taken in the Fall of 2013, as well as NYSITELL exams taken in the Spring of 2014. Starting in 2014-15, the dataset will include only NYSITELL data. The data are stored in comma separated value files (.csv) with a separate file for each school year.

The Language Assessment Battery (LAB-R) exam is used to identify and place new English Language Learners (ELLs). The exam is administered only once to a student to determine his or her eligibility for instructional ELL services.

The New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) assesses the English language proficiency of new entrants to the district whose home language is a language other than English, as indicated on their Home Language Questionnaire.

Pertinent information about LAB-R and NYSITELL data

Following the transition to the NYSITELL exam in 2013-14, coding for the decision flag has changed. Please see the table below for more information on the changes in coding. The 2002-03 through 2012-13 datasets will only include student results from the LAB-R. The 2013-14 dataset will include student results from both the LAB-R (Fall) and NYSITELL (Spring). After 2013-14, the dataset will only include student results from the NYSITELL.

There is a separate file for each individual school year from 2006-07 through 2016-17.

In 2020-21 only, newly enrolled students who were fully remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic were able to submit a waiver for the NYSITELL and became "provisionally identified ELLs" until they returned to blended or in-person learning. Therefore, for SY2020-21 there is likely a lower number of NYSITELL results than any previous year. This also affects a small number of newly enrolled students in 2019-20 from March through June.

The field 'Test Season' is included in years prior to the 2022-2023 school year. Beginning in 2022-2023, it was omitted.

Example File Name: "2002-03_LAB-R_Scrambled.csv"

Format: Comma Separated Values (.csv)

FIELD	DATA TYPE	FIELD DESCRIPTION	VALID VALUES	
student_id_scram	Numeric	Non-personally identifiable student tracking number. • Note: To ensure that all student IDs are 9 digits, import the variable as test to keep leading zeroes.	Nine-digit integer.	
decision_flag	String	Indicates final decision for student's level of English proficiency based on the LAB-R and NYSITELL assessments. Note: As of February 2014, LAB-R was replaced by the NYSITELL. **LAB-R** (TEST_CDE = 'LBR') uses codes A, N, X, Y, or NULL for student proficiency. **NYSITELL** (TEST_CDE = 'ITL') in 2013-14 and 2014-15 files use codes A, B, I, P, or NULL for student proficiency. NYSITELL (TEST_CDE = 'ITL') in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 files use codes EN, EM, TR, EX, CM, and * for student proficiency. Students with * value for decision_flag had exams scanned Absent. (2014-15 file uses both the OLD and current NYSITELL proficiency codes.)	**LAB-R** PROFICIENCY CODES	
			A	Advanced
			N	Tested out
			X	Intermediate
			Y	Beginning
			NULL	
			OLD NYSITELL PROFICIENCY CODES	
			A	Advanced
			B	Beginner
			I	Intermediate
			P	Proficient/Tested Out
			NULL	
			NYSITELL PROFICIENCY CODES	
			EN	Entering
			EM	Emerging
			TR	Transitioning
			EX	Expanding
			CM	Commanding
			*	Student was absent for test
raw_score	String	Exam raw score.	Numeric value ADM – Administrative Error NSC - No Score	
district	Numeric	The district in which the school is located.	Numeric value: 1-32, 75, 79, 84.	
boro	String	The borough in which the school is located.	Letter codes representing boroughs (K, M, Q, R, X).	
number	Numeric	School number.	Three digit numeric value.	
test_code	String	Indicates the test taken. Until 2012-13, the only valid value was 'LBR' (LAB-R). In 2013-14, students began taking the NYSITELL, coded as 'ITL'.	ITL	NYSITELL
test_grade	String	Indicates the grade in which the student was tested.	Two-character code indicating the student's grade level with values of: PK, and 00-12. (Where 0K is used, it is the same as 0.)	
test_year	Numeric	The school year in which the student took the LAB-R. Value is the year in which the Fall term occurred (i.e. if test_year = 2003 → school year = 2003-2004).	Four-digit numeric value.	

Notes about 2019-20 NYSITELL

- Due to school closures in 2019-20, the exam was not administered after 3/15

- Unlike with the NYSESLAT exam (which was not given in 2019-20), there are no scale scores for either the modalities or for the exam as a whole.

- The total raw score does not always appear to equal the sum of the 4 modalities (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing). Unsure of why this is, but it appears that often the total raw score does not (always) include the Writing modality. ODM confirmed that this is how it appears and is recorded in ATS.