Students must participate in the state assessment through one of the following:

- the regular state assessment for the student’s grade WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMMODATIONS
  - Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)
  - Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)

- the alternate state assessment for the student’s grade
  - Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA)
Based on field feedback and practice, peer review and federal monitoring...

it became clear that Illinois needed to clarify the participation guidelines for the Illinois Alternate Assessment
Who is eligible to take the IAA?

- Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities
- Students with intellectual functioning well below average (typically associated with an IQ below 55) that exists concurrently with impairments or deficits in adaptive functioning
Myth:
Only students identified under the educational category of cognitive disability can take the IAA.

Fact:
Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may be identified under a variety of educational categories.
Participation Criteria

The IEP team provides a YES or NO response for each participation criteria as well as a reason for a YES or NO response.
Participation Criteria # 1

- The student has intellectual functioning well below average that exists concurrently with impairments or deficits in adaptive functioning.
Participation Criteria # 2

- Due to the student’s significant cognitive disability, the student’s instruction is linked to grade level content, but is narrowed in scope and reduced in complexity. It is reflective of the critical functions found in the Alternate Assessment Framework.

www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/iaa_framework.htm
Participation Criteria # 3

- When compared to other students with disabilities, the student requires more frequent and intensive instruction presented in incremental steps in order to apply and transfer skills across settings.
As determined by the IEP, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may take the IAA if a YES response is given for all participation criteria.
Accommodation Classifications

- **Environment** (special lighting, adaptive or special furniture such as study carrel or carrel desk, noise buffers, special setting)

- **Opportunity to stand, move, and/or pace during the test session**

- **Tactile Stimulus** (Braille or raised images, manipulatives)

- **Large Print**

- **Signing of test items**
Accommodation cont.

- **Visual Assistance**
  (templates, rulers, or other devices used to help students keep their place in the test booklets, abacus, color overlays, colored pictures or clipart, magnifiers)

- **Signing of test items**

- **Assistive, adaptive, or augmentative technology devices**
  (amplifiers, communication boards, voice-output devices)

- **Calculators**
Accommodation cont.

- **Read Aloud for reading content area items**
  - if the following criteria are met:
    
    - 1. The student has a specific disability that **severely limits or prevents** him/her from decoding text, or from comprehending decoded text, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is a virtual non-reader, not simply reading below grade level).

    **AND**

    - 2. The student has access to printed materials through a human reader or assistive technology device during routine classroom instruction and classroom assessments.
Questions...