

Alternate Assessment September Monthly Meeting

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Alternate Assessment Attendance
September 17, 2024



<https://forms.office.com/r/ify79h05B7>

Housekeeping

- We are using Forms to take attendance. Please use the QR Code or URL to sign in. We will post the link in the chat

Alternate Assessment Attendance
September 17, 2024



<https://forms.office.com/r/ify79h05B7>

- Office hours are from 11 a.m.-Noon September 17. 2024.
- LEA Action Plans and Justification Forms are past due, please see your principal consultant to make arrangements

Agenda

We will go over Section 3 of the LEA Action Plan

We will provide examples of evaluation and lead discussion on reporting the appropriate documentation in Section 3.

We will review participation guidelines in the alternate assessment and tools and resources available to assist districts

We will share next steps in wrapping up the 2023-24 cycle

Section 3: Evaluating the Process

Evaluate the process after all activities have been implemented. Deliverables could include training, guidance documents, and any other information used to ensure the identification of students for the alternate assessment has been evaluated.

Activity to Evaluate			Data Collection Plan		Evaluation of Activity Implementation	
#	Activity	Person Responsible for Implementation	Deliverable	Date Due	Person Responsible for Evaluation	Information on Implementation
	Professional Development with District Staff (i.e. teachers, psychologists, supervisors, etc.) on the DLM-AA Eligibility Criteria, Decision Making Flow-Chart and completion of the assessment form in the IEP	Director of Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Point presentations Agendas, sign-in sheets, PD evaluations Evidence of implementation of Participation Guidelines within the district 	October 31, 2024	Director of Special Education	<p>The evaluation of the process has yielded the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District wide written process for IEP content of assessment participation. Administrative monitoring of alternate assessment participants. Oversight of ISTAR data accurate entry of alternate assessment participants.

LEA Action Plans

- Completed LEA Action Plans and documentation should be submitted to AltException@isbe.net no later than October 31
 - Please CC and address the principal consultant assigned to your district in your email submission
- Reach out to the principal consultant assigned to your district if you need assistance completing section 3 or if you have any questions

Participation Guidelines for the Alternate Assessment

- It's a great time of year to review the participation guidelines with your staff.
- Remind your staff to include discussions with parents regarding the long-term impact of taking the alternate assessment during IEP meetings.
- ISBE strongly recommends using the Participation Guidelines Tool as part of an annual IEP meeting

Defining the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Who is eligible to take the DLM Alternate Assessment?

The alternate assessment is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These students have intellectual functioning well below average (typically associated with an IQ below 55) that exists concurrently with impairments or deficits in adaptive functioning (i.e. communications, self-care, home living, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-directions, functional academic skills, work leisure, health and safety). The reference to "typically associated with an IQ of below 55" is to help distinguish between students with cognitive disabilities and significant cognitive disabilities from students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This means that many students with cognitive disabilities will not qualify for the DLM Alternate Assessment. By default, they must take our regular state assessment with or without accommodations. The inclusion of the words "typically associated with" allows for some district/school flexibility. It is by no means an absolute requirement.

Students taking the alternate assessment may be identified under a variety of educational categories, including cognitive disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.

Who is not eligible for consideration to take the DLM Alternate Assessment?

Students who strictly have academic, language, social/emotional, physical or sensory disabilities without co-occurring intellectual functioning well below average.

Can anyone share examples of how the participation guidelines have been used in decision-making processes and procedures?

Participation Guidelines

Participation Criteria	Participation Criterion Descriptors	Yes	No	Reason(s) for Yes or No Response
1. The student has a significant cognitive disability.	Review of student records indicate a disability or multiple disabilities that significantly impact intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. <i>*Adaptive behavior is defined as essential for someone to live independently and to function safely in daily life.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. The student's instruction is linked to grade level content and reflective of the Common Core Essential Elements.	Goals and instruction listed in the IEP for this student are linked to the enrolled grade level Common Core Essential Elements and address knowledge and skills that are appropriate and challenging for this student.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measureable gains in the grade-and age-appropriate curriculum.	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. requires extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and support that is not of a temporary or transient nature and b. uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate and transfer skills across multiple settings. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Wrapping Up the 2023-24 Cycle

- [LEA Action Plans](#) and [Justification and Assurances Forms](#) are past due. **These are due immediately.** Please remain for office hours immediately following today's meeting to check-in with your principal consultant.
- Finalized LEA Action Plans (with section 3 completed) and documentation are **due no later than October 31**
- Visit ISBE's [Alternate Assessment Participation – 1% Threshold](#) webpage for meeting links and resources
- We will discuss final steps during our next meeting at 10 a.m. on October 15