



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, *Chancellor*

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT RESOURCES - Scan Center
44 -36 Vernon Blvd., 2nd Floor - Long Island City, NY 11101

ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM #3, 2009-2010

DATE: September 9, 2009

TO: COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS
AND PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS

FROM: Grace Pepe, Director of Assessment Operations *GP*
Division of Accountability and Achievement Resources (DAAR)

SUBJECT: New York State Alternate Assessment for Students with
Severe Disabilities Who Were Previously Excluded from
Standardized Testing (Category "C")

OVERVIEW

The New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) is a part of the New York State Testing Program. It is a datafolio assessment in which students with severe cognitive disabilities demonstrate their performance toward achieving the New York State learning standards. Eligibility for participation in NYSAA is determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) according to criteria listed on page 2.

Student performance is recorded through direct observation and documentation and may include other information such as student work, photographs, audio and videotapes. Students must be assessed once a year according to their chronological age, 9 through 14 (Grades 3-8). The secondary-level NYSAA is administered when the students are 18 years old.

PLEASE NOTE:

In 2006-07 important changes were implemented to the NYSAA. These changes pertain to the chronological ages for participation of students with severe cognitive disabilities, administrative procedures, and the content of the exam. These changes were required as a result of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I Assessment Peer Review by the United States Department of Education (USDOE). The State Education Department (SED) has aligned NYSAA alternate achievement standards with the grade-level expectations for English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, social studies, and science for the administration of NYSAA during 2009-10.

CALENDAR

By <u>September 4</u>	The State Education Department delivers the 2009-10 Administration Manual for the New York State Alternate Assessment and other training materials to schools who had student participants last year.
<u>September 29 through October 2009</u>	Training will be scheduled for New York City Alternate Assessment teachers.
<u>October 5, 2009 through February 12, 2010</u>	New York State Alternate Assessment administration dates.
<u>November 2009 through January 2010</u>	Ongoing Collegial Reviews
<u>TBD</u>	New York State Alternate Assessment scoring dates.

MANDATORY COLLEGIAL REVIEW: 2009-10

A collegial review is a facilitated process in which a Lead Special Education Teacher (hereafter referred to as “teacher”) who has compiled a NYSAA datafolio has a colleague, peer, or administrator who is familiar with the requirements for the NYSAA review student datafolio contents for errors, omissions or needed revisions.

At a minimum, one collegial review must be conducted for each datafolio, after it is completed by the teacher. This review is held during the NYSAA administration period and at a point when any necessary revisions can be made before the end of the administration period. The month of the last collegial review session is documented on the student page of the datafolio.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Only students with severe cognitive disabilities are eligible for NYSAA. The Committee on Special Education (CSE) determines whether or not a student with a severe cognitive disability is eligible to take NYSAA based on the following criteria:

- The student has a severe cognitive disability and significant deficits in the communication/language and in adaptive behavior; **and**
- The student requires a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, application, and transfer of skills across natural environments (home, school, community, and/or workplace); **and**
- The student requires educational support systems, such as assistive technology, personal care services, health/medical services, or behavioral intervention. For further information refer to www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nysaa/home.shtml.

The IEP must indicate if the student will be participating in an alternate state assessment (i.e., NYSAA). The IEP must state why the student cannot participate in the general State assessment and why the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the student.

Students eligible for NYSAA must be assessed on the grade-appropriate content that is consistent with the student’s chronological age in accordance with the Age Range Chart in Attachment #1.

SECURITY:

SECURITY VIOLATIONS MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION (SCI) (212) 510-1500, AND TO THE AIDs. THE SED MUST BE CONTACTED FOR STATE TESTING IRREGULARITIES (518) 474-8220.

Questions regarding this test memorandum may be addressed to the following:

- General Information: Louise Smith (718) 349-5646
- District 75 Issues: Nanette Slansky (212) 802-1634
- Age Ranges for Students with Disabilities Participating in the 2009-10 New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) (Attachment #1)

Web Addresses:

- **Office of State Assessment**
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/>
- **New York State Alternate Assessment**
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nysaa/home.shtml>
- **VESID**
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov>

Your continuing cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This memorandum is available at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/YearlyTesting/TestAdministration/default.htm>

GP: vs

Attachments

c: Santiago Taveras
Shael Suransky
Jessica Eadie
Laura Rodriguez
Bonnie Brown
Assessment Implementation Directors



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Standards, Assessment and Reporting

March 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors
Chairpersons of Committees on Special Education
Project Managers for the Level I Data Repositories

FROM: David Abrams *David Abrams*

SUBJECT: Age Ranges for Students with Disabilities Participating in the 2009-10 New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)

NYSAA is a datafolio assessment that measures student progress in achieving the learning standards through alternate grade level indicators. All students in the following age ranges who are eligible to take NYSAA must be tested in 2009-10. Students with severe disabilities are assessed according to chronological ages aligned with grade levels as indicated below. Students should be tested only once at each grade and in all the content areas indicated for each grade.

Age Ranges for Testing on NYSAA in 2009-10		
Assessment	Birth Date	Reaches Age Given Between September 1, 2009 and August 31, 2010
Grade 3 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 2000—August 31, 2001	9
Grade 4 ELA, Mathematics, Science	September 1, 1999—August 31, 2000	10
Grade 5 ELA, Mathematics, Social Studies	September 1, 1998—August 31, 1999	11
Grade 6 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1997—August 31, 1998	12
Grade 7 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1996—August 31, 1997	13
Grade 8 ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1995—August 31, 1996	14
Secondary-Level ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1991—August 31, 1992	18*

Click here for link - <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nysaa/2009-10/nysaa-age-ranges.pdf>

***Note:** NYSAA-eligible students who do not meet the age criteria above and will be leaving school before they reach their eighteenth birthday must take the secondary-level NYSAA before they leave school (i.e., when they are 17 years old). NYSAA-eligible students with a birth date prior to September 1, 1991 who have not been assessed at the secondary-level must be assessed in 2009-10 before they leave school.

Please contact Cynthia Wilson at 518-474-5900 if you have any questions regarding the age ranges for students participating in the NYSAA.

c: Alan Ray