



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JOEL I. KLEIN, Chancellor

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY – Scan Center
 44-36 Vernon Blvd., 2nd Floor – Long Island City, NY 11101

JENNIFER BELL-ELLWANGER
 SENIOR INSTRUCTIONAL MANAGER
 TELEPHONE (212) 374-3990
 FAX (212) 374-5594

ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM #3, 2007-2008

DATE: September 19, 2007

TO: COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS
 AND PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS

FROM: Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger, Executive Director *JBE/dLR*
 Content and Assessment Support, and Summative Assessment
 Office of Accountability (OA)

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 data folio 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 exam. These changes are 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 2007-08.

CALENDAR

By <u>September 4</u>	The State Education Department delivers the 2007-08 Administration Manual for the New York State Alternate Assessment and other training materials to schools who had student participants last year.
<u>September 19 through September 28</u>	Training will be scheduled for New York City Alternate Assessment teachers.
<u>October 1 through February 8</u>	New York State Alternate Assessment administration dates.
TBD	New York State Alternate Assessment scoring dates.

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 see <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/alterassessment/>.

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, TO THE ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTORS (AIDs) (FOR CITY AND STATE TESTS), AND THE SED (FOR STATE TESTS ONLY).

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

- General Information: AIDs at the Integrated Service Center (ISC) (Attachment #2)
- District 75 Issues: Ilisa Sulner (212) 802-1634
- NYSAA Resources (Attachment #3)

Your continuing cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This memorandum is available at:

http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0708/default.asp.

JB: am
Attachments

c: Marcia Lyles
James Liebman
Linda Wernikoff
Bonnie Brown
Joan Flig
Assessment Implementation Directors



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234
 89 Washington Avenue
 Room 675 EBA
 Albany, NY 12234

Office of Elementary, Middle Secondary and Continuing Education

David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner
 Office of Standards, Assessment and Reporting
 (518) 474-5900 (518) 486-5765 (fax)

Age Ranges for the 2007-08 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 2007-08. 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 2007-08		
Assessment	Birth Date	Reaches Age Given Between September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2008
Grade 3 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1998—August 31, 1999	9
Grade 4 ELA, Mathematics, Science	September 1, 1997—August 31, 1998	10
Grade 5 ELA, Mathematics, Social Studies	September 1, 1996—August 31, 1997	11
Grade 6 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1995—August 31, 1996	12
Grade 7 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1994—August 31, 1995	13
Grade 8 ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1993—August 31, 1994	14
Secondary-Level ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1989—August 31, 1990	18*

***Note:** NYSAA-eligible students who will be leaving school before they reach their eighteenth birthday should 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, 1989 who have not been assessed should be assessed before they leave school.

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**
CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT SUPPORT**2007-2008 ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTORS**

INTEGRATED SERVICE CENTER	ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTORS
MANHATTAN	
COMPRISING DISTRICTS:	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6	
333 Seventh Avenue	Suzanne Muller
7 th Floor	(212) 356-3784
New York, N.Y. 10001	(212) 356-7523 (FAX)
	SMuller@schools.nyc.gov
BRONX	
COMPRISING DISTRICTS:	
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12	
1 Fordham Plaza	Sharon Cahr
7 th Floor	(718) 741-5559
Bronx, N.Y. 10458	(718) 741-7954 (FAX)
	SCahr@schools.nyc.gov
BROOKLYN	
COMPRISING DISTRICTS:	
13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23 & 32	
131 Livingston Street	David Rapheal
Third Floor	(718) 935-5965
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201	(718) 935-4888 (FAX)
	DRaphea@schools.nyc.gov
QUEENS	
COMPRISING DISTRICTS:	
24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30	
28-11 Queens Plaza North	John Sutton
2 nd Floor, Room #43	(718) 391-8352
L.I.C., N.Y. 11101	(718) 391-6887 (FAX)
	JSutton@schools.nyc.gov
STATEN ISLAND	
COMPRISING DISTRICTS:	
17, 18, 20, 21, 22, & 31	
715 Ocean Terrace	Judy Cohen
Building A, Room #A127	(718) 390-1579
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301	(718) 420-5665 (FAX)
	JCohen32@schools.nyc.gov
SPECIAL EDUCATION	
D 75	400 First Avenue
	Room #662C
	N. Y., N. Y. 10010
	Steven Weinrich
	(212) 802-1521
	(917) 256-4245 FAX
	SWeinri@schools.nyc.gov
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS	
D 79	4360 Broadway
	Room #419
	New York, N.Y.
	Cami Anderson
	(917) 521-3611
	(917) 521-3649 FAX
	CAnderson7@schools.nyc.gov

CHARTER SCHOOLS		
D 84	52 Chambers St Room #405 N.Y.,N.Y. 10007	Joshua Morales (212) 374-5550 (212) 374-5581 FAX JMorales5@schools.nyc.gov
D 84	52 Chambers St Room #405 N.Y.,N.Y. 10007	Jeannemarie Hendershot (212) 374-5550 (212) 374-5581 FAX JHendershot@schools.nyc.gov
HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION		
	3450 E. Tremont Ave. 1st Floor Bronx, N.Y. 10465	Moira Magro (718) 794-7241 (718) 794-7237 FAX MMagro@schools.nyc.gov
HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION		
	3450 E. Tremont Ave. 1st Floor Bronx, N.Y. 10465	Keri Kaufmann (718) 794-7266 (718) 794-7263 FAX KKaufmann@schools.nyc.gov

2007-08 NYSAA RESOURCES

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>

VESID Special Education:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/home.html>

VESID Special Education Publications:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/home.html>

VESID Special Education Quality Assurance:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/quality/home.html>

If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of VESID publications, register at:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm>

Key Documents

VESID Policy Memorandum 01-02, March 2001, "State Alternate Assessment for Students with Severe Disabilities":

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/alterassess.htm>

Parts 200-201 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/lawsandregs/coverpage.htm>

Important Changes Regarding Administration of the New York State Alternate Assessment for 2006-07:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nysaa/home.shtml>

Revised Guidelines for Participation of Students with Disabilities in State Assessments for 2006-07:

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/ungraded.htm>

New York State Education Department Contacts

NYS Education Department

Office of State Assessment

Room 775 EBA

89 Washington Avenue

Albany, New York 12234

(518) 474-5902

NYS Education Department

Office of Vocational and Educational Services for

Individuals with Disabilities

99 Washington Avenue, Room 1624

Albany, New York 12234

(518) 474-7566

NYS VESID Special Education Quality Assurance Regional Offices

Western Regional Office: (585) 344-2002

Central Regional Office: (315) 428-3287

Eastern Regional Office: (518) 486-6366

Hudson Valley Regional Office: (914) 245-0010

Long Island Regional Office: (631) 884-8530

New York City Regional Office: (718) 722-4544