



**Department of Education**

Joel I. Klein  
Chancellor

ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM #3, 2008-2009

DATE: September 8, 2008

TO: COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS  
AND PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS

FROM: Grace Pepe, Director of Assessment Operations   
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 2008-09.

**CALENDAR**

- By September 5 The State Education Department delivers the 2008-09 Administration Manual for the New York State Alternate Assessment and other training materials to schools who had student participants last year.
- September 29 through October 3 Training will be scheduled for New York City Alternate Assessment teachers.
- October 6, 2008 through February 13, 2009 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, 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: AIDs at the Integrated Service Center (ISC) (Attachment #2)
- District 75 Issues: Nanette Slansky (212) 802-1634
- NYSAA Resources (Attachment #3)

Your continuing cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This memorandum is available at:

[http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos\\_0809/default.asp](http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0809/default.asp).

GP: arn

Attachments

c: Marcia Lyles  
James Liebman  
Bonnie Brown  
Arthur VanderVeen  
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

**Age Ranges for the 2008-09  
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 2008-09. 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.

<b>Age Ranges for Testing on NYSAA in 2008–09</b>		
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Reaches This Age Between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009</b>
Grade 3 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1999—August 31, 2000	9
Grade 4 ELA, Mathematics, Science	September 1, 1998—August 31, 1999	10
Grade 5 ELA, Mathematics, Social Studies	September 1, 1997—August 31, 1998	11
Grade 6 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1996—August 31, 1997	12
Grade 7 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 1995—August 31, 1996	13
Grade 8 ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1994—August 31, 1995	14
Secondary-Level ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1990—August 31, 1991	18*

**\*Note:** NYSAA-eligible students who 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, 1990 who have not been assessed must be assessed in 2008-09 before they leave school.

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT SUPPORT****2008-2009 ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTORS**

<b>INTEGRATED SERVICE CENTER</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTORS</b>
<b>MANHATTAN</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &amp; 6</b>	
333 Seventh Avenue	Suzanne Muller
7 <sup>th</sup> Floor	(212) 356-3784
New York NY 10001	(212) 356-7523 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:SMuller@schools.nyc.gov">SMuller@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>BRONX</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>7, 8, 9, 10, 11, &amp; 12</b>	
1 Fordham Plaza	Sharon Cahr
7 <sup>th</sup> Floor	(718) 741-5559
Bronx NY 10458	(718) 741-7954 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:SCahr@schools.nyc.gov">SCahr@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>BROOKLYN</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23 &amp; 32</b>	
131 Livingston Street	David Rapheal
Third Floor	(718) 935-5965
Brooklyn NY 11201	(718) 935-4888 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:DRaphea@schools.nyc.gov">DRaphea@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>QUEENS</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, &amp; 30</b>	
28-11 Queens Plaza North	Barbara Marcisak
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room #43	(718) 391-8352
Long Island City NY 11101	(718) 391-6886 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:BMarcis@schools.nyc.gov">BMarcis@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>17, 18, 20, 21, 22, &amp; 31</b>	
715 Ocean Terrace	Judy Cohen
Building A, Room #A127	(718) 390-1579
Staten Island NY 10301	(718) 420-5665 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:JCohen32@schools.nyc.gov">JCohen32@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>LONG ISLAND CITY, SCAN CENTER</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	
44-36 Vernon Boulevard	Marie Busiello
Room #202	(718) 349-5636
Long Island City NY 11101	(718) 349-5632 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:MBusiel@schools.nyc.gov">MBusiel@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>LONG ISLAND CITY, SCAN CENTER</b>	
<b>COMPRISING DISTRICTS:</b>	
<b>7, 8, 9, 10, 11 &amp; 12</b>	
44-36 Vernon Boulevard	Luz Solomita
Room #211D	(718) 349-5605
Long Island City NY 11101	(718) 349-5632 (FAX)
	<a href="mailto:LSolomi@schools.nyc.gov">LSolomi@schools.nyc.gov</a>

<b>LONG ISLAND CITY, SCAN CENTER COMPRISING DISTRICTS: 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, &amp; 32</b>		
44-36 Vernon Boulevard		Louise Smith
Room #202		(718) 349-5646
Long Island City NY 11101		(718) 349-5642 (FAX)
		<a href="mailto:LSmith2@schools.nyc.gov">LSmith2@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>LONG ISLAND CITY, SCAN CENTER COMPRISING DISTRICTS: 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, &amp; 30</b>		
44-36 Vernon Boulevard		Rita Magier
Room #207		(718) 349-5618
Long Island City NY 11101		(718) 349-5642 (FAX)
		<a href="mailto:RMagier@schools.nyc.gov">RMagier@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>LONG ISLAND CITY, SCAN CENTER COMPRISING DISTRICTS: 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 &amp; 31</b>		
44-36 Vernon Boulevard		José Garcia
Room #207		(718) 349-5635
Long Island City NY 11101		(718) 349-5632 (FAX)
		<a href="mailto:JGarcia17@schools.nyc.gov">JGarcia17@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>		
D 75	400 First Avenue	Steven Weinrich
	Room #662C	(212) 802-1521
	New York NY 10010	(917) 256-4245 FAX
		<a href="mailto:SWeinri@schools.nyc.gov">SWeinri@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS &amp; PROGRAMS</b>		
D 79	4360 Broadway	Melissa Viscovich
	Room #419	(917) 521-3611
	New York NY 10033	(917) 521-3649 FAX
		<a href="mailto:MViscovich@schools.nyc.gov">MViscovich@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>CHARTER SCHOOLS</b>		
D 84	52 Chambers St	Jeannemarie Hendershot
	Room #405	(212) 374-5140
	New York NY 10007	(212) 374-5581 FAX
		<a href="mailto:JHendershot@schools.nyc.gov">JHendershot@schools.nyc.gov</a>
D 84	52 Chambers St	Christopher Hawkins
	Room #405	(212) 374-7624
	New York NY 10007	(212) 374-5581 FAX
		<a href="mailto:CHawkins@schools.nyc.gov">CHawkins@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION</b>		
	3450 E. Tremont Ave.	Moira Magro
	1st Floor	(718) 794-7241
	Bronx NY 10465	(718) 794-7237 FAX
		<a href="mailto:MMagro@schools.nyc.gov">MMagro@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<b>HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION</b>		
	3450 E. Tremont Ave.	Keri Kaufmann
	1st Floor	(718) 794-7266
	Bronx NY 10465	(718) 794-7263 FAX
		<a href="mailto:KKaufmann@schools.nyc.gov">KKaufmann@schools.nyc.gov</a>

<b>CHILDREN FIRST NETWORK (CFN)</b>
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<b>CFN1</b>
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Mara Ganeles
131 Livingston Street
Room #305A
Brooklyn NY 11201
Tel. (347) 601-5559
<a href="mailto:Mganeles@schools.nyc.gov">Mganeles@schools.nyc.gov</a>

<b>CFN2</b>
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Maria Esponda
Russell Gonzalez
4630 Broadway
Room #530
New York NY 10033
Tel. (917) 569-3675 or (347) 276-2926
<a href="mailto:Mesponda@schools.nyc.gov">Mesponda@schools.nyc.gov</a>
<a href="mailto:Rgonzal16@schools.nyc.gov">Rgonzal16@schools.nyc.gov</a>

<b>CFN3</b>
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Josh Dragoon
333 Seventh Avenue
Room #805
New York NY 10001
Tel. (212) 356-3912
<a href="mailto:Jdragoo@schools.nyc.gov">Jdragoo@schools.nyc.gov</a>

<b>CFN4</b>
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Heather Benson
90-27 Sutphin Blvd.
Room #145
Jamaica NY 11435
Tel. (347) 419-1472
<a href="mailto:Hbenson2@schools.nyc.gov">Hbenson2@schools.nyc.gov</a>

2008-2009 NYSAA RESOURCES

**Web Addresses**

**Office of State Assessment**

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/>

**New York State Alternate Assessment:**

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

**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.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/alterassessment/changesadmin.htm>

**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 Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities**

99 Washington Avenue, Room 1624

Albany, New York 12234 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