



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305  
wvde.us

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Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment, which is an instructionally relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do.

All public school students who meet the participation criteria for alternate assessment set forth in the *Guidelines for Participation in West Virginia State Assessments* will participate in the alternate summative assessment at the grade level in which they are enrolled. Students are assessed in Grades 3-8 and 11 for English language arts and mathematics, and in Grades 5, 8, and 11 for science.

As an informational tool to prepare students for this annual assessment, the Office of Assessment has designed the enclosed *West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment: An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*. This informational sheet describes the alternate summative assessment and the use of test results to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. The informational sheet is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the components of alternate assessment.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your student's teacher, guidance counselor or principal, or the district test coordinator at your county's central office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven L. Paine".

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

SLP/VR:cc

Enclosure



This informational guide provides additional information regarding the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA), which is specifically designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the West Virginia General Summative Assessment even with accommodations.

## Important Information

Students who are administered the alternate assessment will be instructed using the appropriate grade level West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2520.16 (WVAAAS). Students who participate in the West Virginia Alternate Assessment while receiving instruction through the WVAAAS and earning course credits will earn an alternate diploma. It is important to note that students will still have access to grade level content standards and the opportunity to pursue a general diploma until the age of 21.

The alternate assessment documents a student's efforts, achievement, and progress on instructional activities aligned to specific WVAAAS and includes descriptions of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in a specific content area.

The alternate assessment is administered individually to students and measures performance in three content areas:

### English Language Arts (ELA)

- Grades 3-8 and 11

### Mathematics

- Grades 3-8 and 11

### Science

- Grades 5, 8 and 11

## Frequent Questions

### How does participating in statewide assessments benefit my student?

Assessments provide important information about progress and achievement. Assessment results help the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team plan the best instruction to meet your student's specific educational needs.

### Who determines how my student will be assessed?

Your student's IEP Team makes decisions about assessment. You and the other IEP Team members follow state guidelines to decide how your student participates in statewide assessments.

### Will I receive my student's assessment results?

Yes, you will receive an individual student report that shows your student's achievement level in each content area.

## Dynamic Learning Maps™

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium. The assessments are online and are linked to the WVAAAS.

All students participate in state accountability assessments. The Dynamic Learning Maps™ Alternate Assessment System (DLM™) is an instructionally relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do.

Your student does not need to prepare in any way for the assessment. Assessments are delivered in testlets with each testlet containing 3 to 8 questions. Students receive between 5 and 7 testlets, depending on the grade and subject. The assessment is administered in a one-on-one setting. The assessment is designed to meet the individualized needs of each student.

All times noted are estimates or ranges. Total testing time varies depending on a student's unique learning needs. Testlets may be taken separately across multiple testing sessions as long as they are all completed within the testing window.

### Total Testing Time

- 70-90 minutes in ELA
- 35-60 minutes in mathematics
- 30-60 minutes in science

All results are completely confidential, and you will be provided a performance report. If you would like more information about DLM, please visit:

<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/westvirginia>.