

P.A.R.E.N.T.S.

PARTICIPATE	Participate in learning activities. Studies show that parental participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.
ASSIST	Assist the teacher by stressing the importance of setting and achieving educational goals.
REASSURE	Reassure that <i>Alternate Assessment</i> is used to determine strengths and weaknesses, and aids the teacher in planning appropriate instruction.
ENCOURAGE	Encourage students to consistently work to their full potential.
NURTURE	Nurture a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition, a balance of rest and relaxation and a positive attitude towards setting educational goals.
TEACH	Teach that best performance is always important. Information from both formal and informal assessments are used to improve learning and to prepare for the future.
SUPPORT	Support by staying involved, encouraging good study habits, supporting reading activities, checking homework and discussing school related issues.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does participating in statewide assessments benefit my child?

Assessments provide important information about progress and achievement. Assessment results help the IEP Team plan the best instruction to meet your child's specific educational needs.

Who determines how my child will be assessed?

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

Will I receive my child's assessment results?

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

Where can I get more information?

You can get information from your child's school, from your county board office or from the Office of Assessment at 304-558-2546.



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

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

Grades 3-8 and 11
English Language Arts
& Mathematics

Grades 5, 8 & 10
Science

Parent Brochure 2017

Office of Assessment

Division of Teaching and Learning
West Virginia Department of Education

FOREWORD

The purpose of the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment is to provide information about student performance. The alternate assessment measures and identifies student performance in English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science based on grade-level Alternate Academic Content Standards. The alternate assessment is administered in grades 3-8 and grade 11 for ELA and mathematics and in grades 5, 8 and 10 for science.

The alternate assessment is administered to students whose performance cannot be adequately addressed through the general summative assessment based on criteria set forth in the West Virginia Guidelines for Participation in West Virginia State Assessments. The alternate assessment results are used to make instructional decisions and for accountability.

This brochure has been developed by the Office of Assessment to assist parents and guardians in understanding the components of the alternate assessment.

Sincerely,



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

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION

The West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment is specifically designed for students with significant intellectual disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the general summative assessment, even with accommodations. Students who are administered the alternate assessment must be instructed using the appropriate grade level Alternate Academic Content Standards. Students on alternate assessment receive a modified diploma.

The alternate assessment documents a student's efforts, achievement and progress on instructional activities aligned to specific West Virginia Alternate Academic Content Standards 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, mathematics and science. Students are assessed in grades 3-8 and grade 11 for ELA and mathematics. Science is assessed only for grades 5, 8 and 10.

DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortia. The assessments are online and are linked to the Next Generation Alternate Content Standards (WVBE Policy 2520.16; 2520.161; and 2520.162).

All children 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 child 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 and 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>. For more information on alternate assessment, you may contact the Office of Assessment at 304-558-2546.