

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians



This informational guide provides additional information regarding the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment, which is specifically designed for students with significant intellectual disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the general summative assessment, even with accommodations.

Important Information

Students who are administered the alternate assessment must be instructed using the appropriate grade level Alternate Academic Achievement 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 Achievement 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 (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 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.

Dynamic Learning Maps™

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium. The assessments are online and are linked to the Next Generation Alternate Academic Achievement 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, please contact your child's school or your district board office