

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

This informational guide provides additional information regarding the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA), which is specifically designed for students with the most 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 Summative 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>

For more information, please contact your student's school or your district board office.