

Background and Development of NYSAA

NYSAA– Component of the New York State Testing Program

New York State (NYS) conducts a statewide testing program on an annual basis for all students in grades 3 through 8 and high school. NYSAA is part of this statewide testing program. Designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities, NYSAA measures student achievement toward meeting the learning standards established for all students in the academic content areas of ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies. NYSAA ensures that students with severe cognitive disabilities are included in the State Assessment Program and that their results are accounted for as required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Aligns with Requirements

IDEA requires that all students with disabilities have access to the core curriculum with appropriate accommodations and supports as recommended by the CSE. NCLB requires that all students participate in State assessments in ELA and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and high school, and in science at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, and that those performance results are reported. IDEA requires that students with disabilities participate in State Assessments in social studies at elementary, middle, and high school levels, as is required of all non-disabled students. The Department and the State's contractor, Measured Progress, designed the alternate assessment process to ensure that the knowledge, skills, and understanding to be assessed are individualized and appropriately reflect high expectations for students with severe cognitive disabilities. NYSAA also meets the federal requirement for participation by students who are unable to participate in the State's general assessment, even with accommodations.

Link to Grade Level Content of the NYS Core Curriculum

The core curriculums for ELA and mathematics contain grade level content for pre-kindergarten through high school. Additionally, the core curriculums for science and social studies contain grade level content at the elementary, intermediate, and secondary levels. These core curriculums are aligned with the NYS learning standards.

The Department, in cooperation with stakeholders from across the State, has expanded the core curriculum grade level indicators to AGLIs for students with severe cognitive disabilities. AGLIs provide an entry point to the grade level content of the core curriculum. AGLIs measure a level of mastery of the knowledge, skills, and understanding aligned with the core curriculums established for all students by the New York State Board of Regents.