

Background and Development of the 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. The New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) is a part of this statewide testing program. Designed for students with severe cognitive disabilities, the NYSAA measures student achievement toward meeting the learning standards established for all students in the academic content areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. The 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

The IDEA requires that all students with disabilities have access to the core curriculum with appropriate accommodations and supports as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE). The 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. The IDEA requires that students with disabilities participate in State Assessments in social studies at the high school level, 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. The NYSAA also meets the federal requirement for participation by students who are unable to participate in the State's general assessment, even with accommodations.

Links to Grade Level Content of the NYS Core Curriculum

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

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