

KEY POINTS IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALASKA ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (AKAA)

The Alternate Assessment is used with individuals with significant cognitive disabilities to measure each student's proficiency on the general curriculum using alternate achievement standards. Here are some key points to remember:

- Federal Regulations (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) require that ALL students in grades 3-10 show progress in meeting proficiency levels in the academic areas of Reading, Writing, Math and Science (4th, 8th and 10th).
- The AkAA was created for grades 3-10 students with abilities in the lowest 1% of a district's population. In this district, the AkAA can only be administered by a teacher who has been certified as a Qualified Assessor.
- When a student is determined eligible for the AkAA he/she is automatically placed on a non-diploma track, as this assessment does not measure performance on Alaska State Standards as the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) do. The AkAA measures student performance on grade level expectations as linked by the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Essential Elements, available at <http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/alternateEE.html> .
- A student cannot be placed on the Alaska Alternate Assessment unless they meet ALL eligibility criteria. Annually, the IEP team must reach consensus that the student is eligible by completing the Participation Criteria (see back of this sheet). The student must get a "Yes" on each of the three questions at the top of the criteria checklist AND a "checkmark" on each of the 14 considerations on the bottom to qualify for the AkAA. This checklist should then be signed/dated by the Case Manager to confirm validity and attached to the IEP. Based on this information, the IEP team must provide a statement in the IEP describing why the regular assessment is not appropriate and why the Alternate Assessment is appropriate.
- A parent's signature is required to acknowledge the student's participation in a non-diploma track (a new signature page is created in the KPBSD SpecEd database when the Alternate Assessment box is checked).
- A copy of the "Alternate Assessment Criteria" is located under the "Print" option in the IEP database, SpEd Launcher. The blank form is printed and then filled in by hand.
- At KPBSD, case managers who are considering initial placement of a student on the Alaska Alternate Assessment must discuss this decision with a Pupil Services Administrator and a KPBSD Alternate Assessment Mentor prior to the IEP Meeting day.
- Questions about the AkAA can be directed to the KPBSD Alternate Assessment Mentors, Jill Ramponi and Dan Kaasa.