PARENTS.

PARTICIPATE Participate in learning activities. Studies show that parental participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.

ASSIST Assist the teacher by stressing the importance of setting and achieving educational goals.

REASSURE Reassure that Alternate Assessment is used to determine strengths and weaknesses, and aids the teacher in planning appropriate instruction.

ENCOURAGE Encourage students to consistently work to their full potential.

NURETE Nurture a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition, a balance of rest and relaxation and a positive attitude towards setting educational goals.

TEACH Teach that best performance is always important. Information from both formal and informal assessments are used to improve learning and to prepare for the future.

SUPPORT Support by staying involved, encouraging good study habits, supporting reading activities, checking homework and discussing school related issues.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does participating in statewide assessment 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.

Where can I get more information?
You can get information from your child's school, from your county board office or from the Office of Assessment at 304-558-2546.

West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

Grades 3-11 English Language Arts & Mathematics
Grades 4, 6 & 10 Science

Parent Brochure 2016

Office of Assessment
Division of Teaching and Learning
West Virginia Department of Education

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

West Virginia Department of Education

Michael J. Martirano, President
Lloyd G. Jackson II, Vice President
Tina G. Carbone, Secretary

Thomas J. Campbell, Executive Director
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William H. White, Director
James E. Wilson, Director

Paul L. Hill, Ex Officio Chairman
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Ex Officio Chairman
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education

Michael J. Martirano, Ex Officio State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education

West Virginia Board of Education 2010-2016

Office of Assessment
Division of Teaching and Learning
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FOREWORD

The purpose of the West Virginia alternate assessment is to provide valid and meaningful information about student performance to students, educators and parents. The alternate assessment measures student performance in English language arts, mathematics and science based on grade-level Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. The alternate assessment is administered in grades 3-11 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, and in grades 4, 6 and 10 for science.

The alternate assessment is administered to students whose performance cannot be adequately addressed through the General Summative Assessment based on criteria outlined in the West Virginia Guidelines for Participation in State Assessments. The alternate assessment results are used to make instructional decisions and to meet federal requirements.

This brochure has been developed by the Office of Assessment to assist parents and guardians in understanding the components of the alternate assessment.

Sincerely,

Michael Martin, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

WEST VIRGINIA ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

The West Virginia Alternate Assessment is specifically designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the general summative assessment, even with accommodations. Students who are administered the alternate assessment must be instructed using the appropriate grade level Alternate Academic Achievement Standards and are pursuing 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, which are linked to the state approved content standards. The West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards are descriptions of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in a content area.

The alternate assessment is administered individually to students and measures students' performance in three content areas: ELA, mathematics and science.

TRANSITION

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium. Beginning this year the alternate assessment will be the DLM assessment. These assessments are online assessments that are linked to the Next Generation Alternate Achievement Standards (WVBE Policy 2520.161 and 2520.162).

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION

Dynamic Learning Maps

Students in grades 3-11 will be assessed in ELA and mathematics using the DLM assessment. Your child does not need to prepare in any way for the assessment. The student will be administered a series of short testlets in a one on one setting. The assessment is computer adapted and designed to meet the individualized needs of each student.

We anticipate that the assessment process will take approximately 75 minutes in ELA and one hour of total testing time in mathematics across several days. All results are completely confidential, and you will be provided a performance report.

Students will take a science assessment in grades 4, 6 and 10. Alternate achievement standards for science may be found in WVBE Policy 2520.16.

If you would like more information about DLM please visit the webpage at dynamiclearningmaps.org

For more information on alternate assessment, you may contact the Office of Assessment at 304-558-2546.