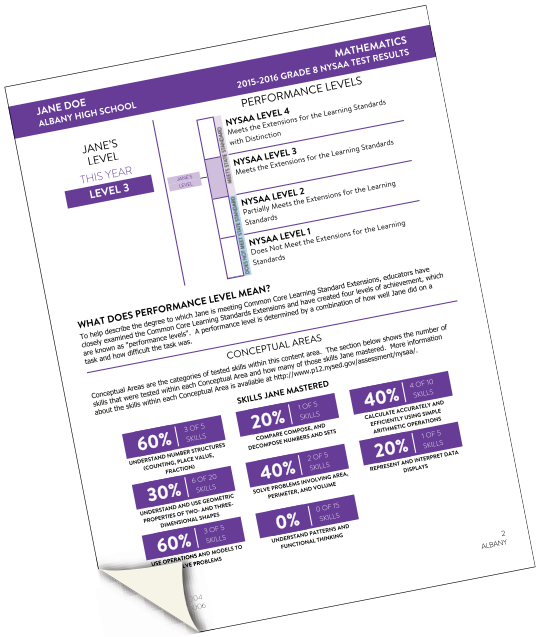
Parent Report:
Your Child's NYSAA Results

Your child's school will send an Individual Score Report home in each area that your child was assessed. These results can be used as a starting point to help you understand your child's progress.



Parent & Family Resources

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact the New York State Education Department's Office of State Assessment at:

518-474-5902

or email:

EMSCASSESSINFO@nysed.gov

For more information:

VISIT THE NYSED WEB PAGES AT:

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nysaa/home.html

AND

https://www.engageny.org/parent-family-library

AND

Office of Special Education at:

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/

AND

Special Education Parent Centers at:

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/quality/parents.htm

New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

(518) 474-5902
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A Parent's Quick Guide to the **New York State Alternate Assessment** (NYSAA)

New York State Education Department

What is the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)?

The NYSAA is a part of the New York State testing program that measures student performance on alternate achievement standards in the areas of English Language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies for students with the most severe cognitive disabilities. These standards are reduced in complexity from the Learning Standards.

What do we mean by students with the most severe cognitive disabilities?

"Students with the most severe cognitive disabilities" can be defined as students who have limited cognitive abilities, combined with behavioral and/or physical limitations, and who require highly specialized educational, social, psychological, and medical services in order to maximize their full potential for useful and meaningful participation in society and for self-fulfillment.

Who should take the NYSAA?

Only students with the most severe cognitive disabilities are eligible to take the NYSAA. The Committee on Special Education (CSE) determines whether a student with a severe cognitive disability is eligible to take the NYSAA, based on the following criteria:

- The student has a severe cognitive disability, significant deficits in communication/ language, and significant deficits in adaptive behavior; **and**
- The student requires a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, applications, and transfer of skills across natural environments (home, school, community, and/or workplace); **and**
- The student requires educational support systems, such as assistive technology, personal care services, health/medical services, or behavioral intervention.

The NYSAA measures student performance in:

English language arts (ELA) and mathematics

ELA and mathematics will be assessed using Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). DLM is a computer-delivered, adaptive assessment that measures student knowledge on Essential Elements. Essential Elements are alternate achievement standards that are reduced in depth and breadth from the Learning Standards. Students are assessed in ELA and mathematics in grades 3-8 and one time at the secondary level prior to exiting high school.

Science and social studies

Science and social studies will be assessed using a datafolio-style assessment. The datafolio is comprised of a collection of student work. Students are assessed in science in grades 4 and 8 and one time at the secondary level prior to exiting high school. Students are assessed in social studies only one time at the secondary level prior to exiting high school

Scores

What are NYSAA scores used for?

NYSAA scores show you and your child's teacher how your child is progressing on grade-level alternate achievement standards. These scores can help:

- Clearly identify your child's strengths and needs; **and**
- Provide information to allow for meaningful discussions surrounding your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP); **and**
- Set instructional priorities that inform your child's functional and academic goals and short-term objectives; **and**
- Identify your child's most effective method of communication across multiple settings.