

Parent Notification of Participation in the New York State Alternate Assessment

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that your child, _____, was recommended by their IEP team to participate in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA), rather than in the general New York State (NYS) assessment program, in the following subject(s):

_____.

In making this recommendation, the IEP team has determined that your child meets the eligibility and participation criteria for NYSAA, which can be found at www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/eligibility-criteria-for-participation-nysaa.html.

The IEP team has also determined that the general NYS assessment program is not an appropriate way for your child to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, even with testing accommodations. NYSAA is part of the NYS testing program. NYSAA measures student performance on alternate achievement standards in the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. NYSAA is appropriate for students with the most severe cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and high school.

Please be aware that if your child participates in NYSAA for one or more subjects in high school, your child will not be able to meet the requirements for a NYS high school diploma. NYSAA assesses learning standards that do **not** meet the requirements to earn a high school diploma (local or Regents diploma) in New York State. To earn a NYS high school diploma, students must earn required course credits and participate in required Regents examinations.

Students recommended for participation in NYSAA receive instruction and are assessed against alternate standards that are at a reduced level of complexity. Your child will be assessed using the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment system. DLM alternate assessment is a computer-delivered, adaptive assessment system that measures student achievement of ELA, mathematics, and science. This computerized assessment provides the opportunity to customize the assessment to the individual abilities and needs of your child.

Your child's IEP team, of which you are a member, will make a recommendation about the appropriate assessment program for your child each year. If you have any questions about your child's participation in NYSAA and their postsecondary options, you are encouraged to speak with your child's teacher or special education administrator.

For questions on NYSAA you may also wish to contact NYSED's Office of Special Education Policy Unit at 518-473-2878 or the Office of State Assessment at 518-474-5900. Additional information on NYSAA, including A Parent's Quick Guide to the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) is available on NYSED's Office of State Assessment NYSAA webpage (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nysaa/home.html>). Additional information on graduation

requirements is available on the NYSED's Office of Curriculum and Instruction webpage (<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/>).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,