**New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) Participation Decision-Making Checklist**

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| The checklist below **may** be used in conjunction with guidance provided in the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) *Eligibility and Participation Criteria – NYSSA* in the decision-making process to ensure that only those students with the most severe cognitive disabilities are taking NYSAA. The committee on special education (CSE) must determine annually whether a student will participate in NYSAA on a particular State assessment of student achievement (i.e., English language arts, mathematics, and/or science) and document this decision in the student's individualized education program. If the CSE indicates "YES" for **all** items below, the student may be determined eligible to participate in NYSAA. This checklist is for local use, only. Do **not** submit this form to NYSED. However, a copy should be retained in the student's special education record. |
| **Student:**       **Date:**      **Persons Involved in Decision-Making:**       |
| **Eligibility Criteria** | **YES** | **NO** | **Comments/Evidence** |
| The student has a severe cognitive disability and significant deficits in communication/language and significant deficits in adaptive behavior. | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| The student requires a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, application, and transfer of skills across natural environments (home, school, community, and/or workplace). | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| The student requires educational support systems, such as assistive technology, personal care services, health/medical services, or behavioral intervention. | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| Both qualitative and quantitative information (e.g., evaluative information, classroom data, anecdotal information) have been considered to inform decisions on the above-listed criteria.[[1]](#footnote-1)\* | [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| **Check the recommendation that is most appropriate in meeting the needs of this student:**[ ]  The student is recommended by the CSE to participate in the general New York State Assessment Program (with or without testing accommodations) for: [ ]  English [ ]  Math [ ]  Science[ ]  The student is recommended by the CSE to participate in NYSAA (with or without testing accommodations) for: [ ]  English [ ]  Math [ ]  Science**Parental Understanding:** If my child has been determined eligible to participate in NYSAA, I have been informed of and understand the following statements:[ ]  My child's performance will be measured against alternate achievement standards that do not meet the expectations needed to earn a regular high school diploma (i.e., local or Regents diploma) in New York State (NYS).[ ]  In order to earn a diploma in NYS, students must earn required course credits and participate in required Regents examinations, and my child will not be able to earn a NYS high school diploma if he/she continues to participate in NYSAA for one or more subjects in high school.  |

1. \* The decision for the student's participation in NYSAA was **not** based on the following: category of disability, language differences; excessive or extended absences; cultural or environmental factors; previous low academic achievement; or previous need for accommodations to participate in State or district-wide assessments. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)