



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT
89 Washington Avenue, Room 775 EBA
Albany, New York 12234

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
89 Washington Avenue, Room 301M EB
Albany, New York 12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Charter School Leaders
Special Education Teachers

Zachary Warner 
Director, Office of State Assessment

From: Christopher Suriano 
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Special Education

Subject: Administration of the New York State Alternate Assessment in the 2022-23
School Year

This memorandum provides important information about the administration of the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) beginning with the 2022-23 school year. Students eligible to participate in the NYSAA are assessed in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science using the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment System. The NYSAA is part of the State testing program that measures student knowledge on Essential Elements, which are alternate achievement standards that are reduced in depth and breadth from the learning standards.

NYSAA in Science

In December 2016, the Board of Regents adopted the new [P-12 Science Learning Standards](#) which are based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education developed by the Research Council and the Next Generation Science Standards. The [DLM Essential Elements in science](#) are specific statements of knowledge and skills that are linked to the grade-level expectations in the Framework for K-12 Science Education.

Students participating in the NYSAA in science are assessed once each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year and thereafter, NYSAA eligible students will be tested in science in grade 5, grade 8, and one time in high school. As the Board of Regents and the Department work to [implement the science learning standards](#), **students eligible to participate in the grade 4 NYSAA in science will not be tested in the 2022-23 school year**. Instead, these students will be tested in grade 5 the following year (spring 2024). This is consistent with the implementation of the Elementary- and Intermediate-level Science Assessments.

NYSAA in English Language Arts and Mathematics

Students will continue to take the NYSAA English language arts and mathematics tests in grades 3-8 and once in high school. As in past years, these tests will measure the DLM Essential Elements in [ELA](#) and [math](#). The Department and DLM Consortium staff are currently working together on alignment studies to link the [New York State Next Generation Learning Standards](#) with the DLM Essential Elements. However, these linkages will not impact the student experience or how teachers prepare students for the assessment. The Essential Elements in these subject areas remain unchanged.

The Department and the DLM Consortium will continue to work cooperatively to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators have the necessary supports for successful assessment. If you have questions about the alternate assessment, please contact the Office of State Assessment by phone at (518) 474-5902 or by email at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov. Questions about special education should be directed to the Office of Special Education by phone at (518) 473-4818 or by email at speced@nysed.gov.