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TO: NYSAA District Test Coordinators (DTC)
NYSAA Building Test Coordinators (BTC)
Directors of Special Education
Directors of Pupil Personnel
Services

FROM: Steven E. Katz *Steven E Katz*

DATE: May 2018

SUBJECT: Process to Medically Excuse a Student with a Severe Cognitive Disability from Participation in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)

This is to remind schools of the process to medically excuse students with significant cognitive disabilities from participation in NYSAA.

Under certain circumstances, a school administrator may grant a medical excuse from the NYSAA (DLM) testing requirement for a student with a significant cognitive disability. The State Education Department allows NYSAA-eligible students with significant disabilities to be medically excused when the student is too incapacitated to be tested because of an illness or injury resulting from a significant medical emergency, as documented by a medical practitioner. The medically excused option is reviewed by a school district administrator on an individual student basis. School administrators should work with parents to obtain documentation from a medical practitioner.

The following process needs to be followed for medically excusing a student: Students must be added to KITE: Educator Portal, then rostered to a teacher and the first contact survey completed. This results in testlets being generated. Once testlets are generated, they should not be opened. Instead, the teacher would notify the District or Building Test Coordinator (DTC/BTC) that a special circumstance code needs to be applied. The BTC/DTC would enter the special circumstance code one time per content area. Special circumstance codes can then be entered by the BTC/DTC under the Test Management Tab on the table where the TIP is retrieved. Documentation from a medical practitioner and of the special circumstance must be kept on file by the school district.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of State Assessment at 518-474-5900.