



Tip Sheet for Test Administrators

It isn't too early to start preparing for this year's alternate assessment administration. In fact, early preparation will improve the experience for both you and your students. This is what you can do now to familiarize your students with [MSAA](#) (ELA & Mathematics) and [AIMS A Science](#).

- Use Core Content Connectors and [Alternate Science Standards](#) in everyday instruction.
- Be intentional about how you format the presentation of your lessons so that they will align with the assessment. Use sample items and the [NCSC Wiki resources](#). Not all lessons need to have the same format, but presenting materials in a variety of ways will help your students generalize and will reduce anxiety about the testing experience.
- Practice writing content, not only letter formation. This means that students should be presented with opportunities to communicate ideas.
 - Remember that the test is scored on capitalization and punctuation, but not on spelling. It is acceptable, and most likely the best option for your student, to use spell check software when available. The student is also scored on organization and idea development. You can find the writing rubrics on the [Alternate Assessment website](#) under the Instructional Supports and Resources tab in MSAA.
<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/msaa/>
- Check all IEPs for accommodations. **Remember if you are using any paper test, that accommodation needs to be on the IEP.** Additionally, alternate assessments allow for special accommodations that should be listed: tactile representations, scribe, and scratch paper, for example.

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