Alternate Assessment Updates
Directors Institute 2018

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• Alternate Assessment Updates
  – Data from 2018 administration
  – 1% Cap
  – MSAA
  – AIMS A Science
Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities
  - Students must meet the eligibility criteria in order to participate

- MSAA
  - English Language Arts (including Writing) and Mathematics (Grades 3 through 8 and 11)
In 2018, we administered the MSAA ELA and Mathematics Alternate Assessments to 6,867 students as compared to 7,290 students in 2017.

Percentage of Closed tests due to No Observable Communication was:

- 2018: 4.8%
- 2017: 8.0%

We did have 342 tests left in “Not Started” and “In-Progress” status (these were not scored).
• **Paper Accommodation**
  – Test downloads were tracked in the MSAA system this year.
    • **2018: 249** students were identified as using this accommodation in the After Test Accommodations response
    • **2017: 355** students were identified as using this accommodation in the *After Test Accommodations*

• **Scribe**
  – In 2018, 1439 students were identified as using this accommodation
  – In 2017, 1606 students were identified as using this accommodation
Closed Tests (2018)

- **ELA**
  - 332 Properly closed tests
  - 61 Closed mis-administrations
  - 17 Tested in Math

- **Math**
  - 332 Properly closed tests
  - 37 Closed mis-administrations
  - 1 Tested in ELA
Grade 4 Cohort

- **MSAA**
  - Total of 48 closed tests in ELA and math
  - Of the 48
    - 28 had responses in AIMS A Science (multiple choice)
    - 7 had responses in MSAA in 2017 (in Grade 3)
- **AIMS A Science**
  - 53 requests for No Response Option
  - 23 of the 53 had recorded responses
- **19 students were consistent in demonstrating no mode of communication. This is less than 2% of students who participate in alternate assessments.**
- **Technical assistance is being developed for TCs with high rates of test closures**
Procedures for Closed Tests

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• Best Practice before closing a test:
  – Talk with the teacher. How does the student communicate throughout the day? What strategies were used to attempt a student response? How many times was the SRC administered?

• Best Practice after closing a test:
  – Review the IEP. Are communication goals addressed? Is the SLP collaborating? Are there different strategies you can try to teach communication? Hint-the NCSC Wiki has a communication toolkit.
More Data

• EL status: 19.5% in 2018, 20.9% in 2017
• Setting:
  – Specialized school: 9.2%
  – Entirely self-contained: 64.6%
  – Primarily self-contained: 15.1%
  – Resource room: 5.3%
  – General Education: 3.6%
• Augmentative Communication System: 17.6%
• No accommodations used: 20.7%
• Data from MSAA 2018
  – Closed Tests: Early Stopping Rule
  – Paper Accommodation
  – Scribe

Where or how can you do better?
What is needed in your district?
Do you know how to get this information?
## Who are our Students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Disabilities</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Health Impairment</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Learning Disability</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Impairment, Visual Impairment, Deaf, Deaf/Blind</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Disability</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech/Language Impairment</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IDEA Disability Category (2015)

ARIZONA’S ASSESSMENTS

Graphs showing the percentage of students in various disability categories in different states and the overall population.
Share Out

• How are LEAs using assessment data today?
  – Is it shared with Teachers?

• Will you or someone in your district open the CSV file?
1% Cap

- The state’s calculation is lower than last year, but still exceeds 1%.
- Action Plans will be submitted by LEAs who exceeded the 1% Cap. Plans themselves will have an additional requirement. US DOE requires that we address disproportionality at the LEA level.
- LEAs will have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of their procedures and include this in the justification section of the plan.
• This does not mean your LEA is “in trouble”. This is not the same as corrective action.
• The state is required to monitor LEAs to ensure eligibility criteria are met.
• Two steps this year
  1. Provide student information. Individual student data will be considered before placing the LEA into a tier.
  2. After reviewing student data, ADE will notify the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator. Write your plan based on the information in the notification. Submit your plan.
• Alternate Assessments are NOT to be used for students because of a school determination to administer a test on the menu
  – All students are administered the selected test, even students with disabilities, unless they meet eligibility criteria for alternate assessment
• Eligibility form has changed
  – Removed separate AIMS A Science criteria page
  – Eligibility itself is the same. A student who was determined eligible at the last IEP meeting will still be eligible through the remainder of the IEP.
Student Selection

- Alternate Assessment TCs must
  - Identify students EARLY in the Student Selector Application beginning October 2018 through November 2018.
  - If a student is not identified in the Student Selector Application and needs to be added later, the LEA must submit a letter signed by the Superintendent/Charter Holder and the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator. The letter will include the SSIDs of students to be added and the reason they were not identified in the fall. If students are not determined as eligible for alternate assessment before the Student Selector Application closes, they may not participate in alternate assessments in 2019.
The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators are responsible for monitoring completion of alternate assessments. Suggestions for assisting teachers:

- Require teachers to develop an assessment calendar to be shared with the TC.
- Utilize LEA resources for scheduling purposes. Teachers have asked me how to administer a one on one assessment to many students within the testing window.
Changes to AIMS A Science

- One AIMS A Science Test Administration Manual
- Combined training for TAs and TCs
  - Required and documented at the state level for TCs
  - TCs direct and document TA training
- Science standards are in development
  - Changes will be coming by 2020
  - Keep teaching Science and using Alternate Standards until you are notified that updated standards have been adopted. We will not be developing Alternate Science Standards.
The Alternate Assessment Unit has created a handbook for AATCs.

- Tasks required throughout the year
- Instructions and more information on each task
- Can be referenced throughout the year
• Document is posted to the alternate assessment website before training starts
  – TCs must complete training before closing a test
  – Only the ADE Alternate Assessment Unit adds students to the MSAA system.
  – Do not create classrooms
  – Use of graphic organizers
Enhancements to the MSAA System for 2018-2019

- Release of additional sample items including a writing prompt
- Platform enhancements to ensure writing prompt evidence is uploaded
- Reorganize DTAs
Webinar Series

• Two webinars were held so far this year
  – August 16: Instructional Resources
  – September 13: Eligibility for Alternate Assessment

• Next webinar is scheduled for October 11 on Accommodations

• A link to the recordings is posted on the Alternate Assessment website
Alternate Assessment Unit

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