

2012-2013 - Changes to the Alaska Alternate Assessment Training Site <ak.k12test.com>

Policy or Procedural Changes

1. Updated the Calendar of Important Dates

Please refer to this calendar for Alternate Assessment and related information.

2. Braille and Large Print Orders

District Test Coordinators will send Braille and Large Print test orders to EED by November 30, 2012. Please alert your DTC if you have a student requiring one of these assessments. These tests will be mailed to the DTC in mid-January. If a student arrives late in a district, after the deadline, and requires a Braille or Large Print test, contact EED before December 1.

3. Student Communication Survey (SCS)

The Student Communication Survey (SCS) is part of the required student demographic information that will be collected in the data entry/student setup section in the online assessment system. (Was the LCI link last year). This survey will provide valuable information about communication and literacy of students who take the alternate assessment in our state. This information is required for each student. It is recommended that Assessors enter the information while entering their student's data entry. Demographic information for each student must be entered by February 15, 2013.

4. New State Standards

In June 2012, the Alaska State Board of Education adopted new standards for reading, writing, and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards are equal in rigor to the common core state standards (CCSS). Connectors to the Alaska standards have been developed by the NCSC project for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Alaska educators will be invited to review and provide feedback. Watch for the recruitment notice.

5. Test Security Agreements (TSA)

New regulations that effect test security agreements were adopted by the State Board of Education. The intent of the regulation is to ensure that one district employee (the district test coordinator) is responsible for the oversight and security of the test administration for all the assessments included in our student assessment system. These assessments include: High School Graduation Qualification Exam (HSGQE), Standards Based Assessments (SBAs), Alternate Assessments (AA), English Language Proficiency assessments (ELP), Terra Nova (TN), and Work Keys assessments (WK). Test security agreements will continue to be used to provide guidance specific for test administrators, mentors, qualified assessors, and other testing personnel.

6. Alternate Access for ELLs

For the first time ever, an English language proficiency test has been developed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities and will be available for use in Alaska in spring 2013. It is intended only for English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities severe enough to prevent meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment. Contact Grace Gray, 907-465-8432, grace.gray@alaska.gov for additional information and training.

7. National Center State Collaborative (NCSC) Project

Alaska is participating in year two of a national project that is developing new approaches to serving and assessing students with significant cognitive disabilities. Curriculum and instruction, professional development, community of practice groups, determination of the meaning of "college and career ready" for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and new alternate assessments are all being developed. The name of this consortium is called the National Center State Collaborative (NCSC) General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG). The consortium consists of 19 tier one states, 5 tier two states, the University of Kentucky, the University of North Carolina, the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, EdCount, and the National Center of Educational Outcomes. It is a grant project from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and is the special education counterpart to the Race to the Top consortia.

8. NCSC Communities of Practice Teachers have participated in the first year of a Communities of Practice (COP) group. The first year consisted of a face-to-face meeting followed by webinars covering the topics of new standards for math and reading and communication issues for students. The COPs will be asked to implement model curricula and help to refine and clarify materials and resources. We will be recruiting additional members for the COP this year.

9. Reminders:

• **DIASA – Data Interaction for Alaska Student Assessments**

DIASA is a dynamic, Web-based system that provides online access to student performance for Alaska’s student assessments. The Alternate Assessment data is now included in the site.’

• **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Amended, effective January 1, 2009 (title 42, Chapter 126, Section 12102 (3) (B), Definition of Disability. Congress clarified, “an individual is not ‘regarded as’ an individual with a disability if the impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.” There is a suggested form posted on EED’s website which districts may use, or districts may create their own documentation of records keeping. Located under Test Coordinator Resources, <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/accommodations.html>

Training and Continuous Improvement

1. Reliability and Validity Studies 2013

During the 2013 Alternate Assessment testing window, staff from DRA and EED will conduct two sets of reliability/validity studies: 1) observations of a sample of Assessors administering the Reading Alternate Assessment in all four grade bands. 2) all grade 5 writing materials will be collected and shipped to the test vendor (DRA) for review and analysis. Results from these studies will be used to improve the training system for the Alternate Assessment.

2. Alternate Assessment Training and Committees 2012-2013

- New Mentor Training, October 15-17, 2012, Juneau, AK
- Annual Mentor Training Webinar, November 6, 2012, 3:00-5:00 PM-(For Mentors not in attendance on November 7-8).
- Annual Mentor Training, November 7-8, 2012, Anchorage, AK
- NCSC Communities of Practice, November 9, 2012, , Anchorage, AK
- Review of new standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities, January TBD 2013, Anchorage, AK (watch for recruitment notice).
- Pre-Test Mentor Webinar, January 23, 2013, 3:30-4:30 PM
- Post-Test Mentor Webinar, April 8, 2013, 3:30-4:30 PM

Specific Website Changes

Materials tab

1. Training and support documents, additions

All documents listed on the Materials Tab have been updated. A significant addition is the inclusion of the 2013 Writing Scoring Manual addendum. This document serves to provide additional student examples to help clarify scoring confusions noted during the 2012 Writing Score Behind study.

2. Training and support documents, replacement pages

- a. Correct Word Sequence clarification: The training and rule application related to Correct Word Sequences when word “cards” are provided to the student was clarified to better align to the guidance in the Writing Scoring Manual. The scoring of the student in the video for Writing Training 2 has been corrected, and the Explanation of Answers and Answers documents have been edited to align to the clarification.
- b. Write Own Name clarification: The student in the video for Writing Training 1 wrote her name correctly as “Moriah”. The scoring of this item and the Explanation of Answers have been edited to align to this correct student response.

Replacement pages for the document “2012_OnlineSupportDocuments_Trng” have been uploaded to the Materials Tab of the ak.k12test.com site. Assessors may print the replacement pages, remove the incorrect pages from their file and insert the corrected pages.

3. Refresher Proficiency Test support documents

The transcripts, student materials, and scoring protocols for the Refresher Proficiency Tests have been gathered into a document, available on the ak.k12test.com site, in the Materials tab (2013_OnlineSupportDocuments_Prof-Refresh.pdf)

4. Clarified the rule to move to ELOS administration

Application of the NA-I designation in Reading grade 3/4 or 9/10 should not be used in calculating the three zeros in three consecutive tasks rule to move to ELOS administration.

Data Entry tab

1. Entering Student Caseload Information

All student names and demographic information should be entered into the online system by February 15, 2013. Student data entry is available throughout the test window; we encourage early entry of all students eligible for the Alternate Assessment so data entry and submission can be monitored. Additionally, DRA will use the student data entry to inform the Writing Scoring study.

You may begin entering student data on January 28, 2012.

2. Student Communication Survey (formerly the LCI survey link)

Each Assessor will provide required information on each student enrolled in the Alternate Assessment relating to student’s communication and literacy. The link will be available on the Student Setup page as Assessors add students, beginning January 28, 2013.

The screenshot shows a web-based form for entering student information. The form is organized into columns for 'State ID', 'First Name', and 'Last Name'. Below these are fields for 'District ID', 'Middle', and 'Suffix'. There are also dropdown menus for 'Grade', 'District', and 'School', and three 'Click' buttons for 'Birthday'. On the right side, there is an 'Add Student' button. A blue circular callout highlights the 'Add Student' button and the text 'adding Student Communication Survey' below it. At the bottom right, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons.