



Department: DSS and OAAP

Policy: II

Topic: Students with Disabilities and Alternate Assessments

Revised: 1/20/2021

PROCEDURE

Employees of Marietta City Schools should comply with the following procedures for determining the eligibility of students to be administered an alternative assessment.

Student Assessment Handbook:

Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) all students, including students with disabilities, must participate in the state's academic content standards.

The IEP team should consider the following: (a) the purpose of the assessment, (b) the feasibility of the student's participation, and (c) the accommodation(s), if any, that the student may need. The decision of the IEP team regarding participation and accommodations must be documented in the IEP. If a student's IEP team recommends no participation in state-mandated assessments (e.g. Georgia Milestones), the IEP must document the reasons and require participation in the GAA 2.0. The GAA 2.0 includes students who appropriately participate in the curriculum based on alternate achievement standards. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) defines an alternate achievement standard as one that "sets an expectation of performance that differs in complexity from a grade-level achievement standard." Alternate achievement standards must be aligned to state academic content standards, although they may reflect prerequisite or entry-level skills.

Where all students are being assessed, students with disabilities in grades 3-8 and high school must either participate in the general assessment or the GAA 2.0. GAA 2.0 is administered to students in grades 3 through high school. Kindergarten students with significant cognitive disabilities must take GKIDS & GKIDS Readiness and are no longer required to take GAA 2.0. The state will support, score, and report only in the state-mandated grades 3-8, and high school as outlined in this Handbook, GAA 2.0 training sessions, and the published GAA 2.0 Blueprint.

If there is a local test administered to all students in grades 1 and 2, then local systems may use their own alternate assessment.



Eligibility criteria for the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0), Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, GKIDS Readiness, GKIDS, and the Marietta Alternate Assessment:

According to O.C.G.A § 20-2-281, school districts are required to follow the procedures specified in the applicable test administration materials. As a result, the IEP team must use the **Eligibility Criteria for the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 (GAA)** form to document its assessment decisions. If an alternate assessment is being considered, the IEP team must review the four criteria below and select Yes or No if applicable to the student. To be eligible to participate in an alternate assessment, the answer to all four of the questions below must be Yes. If the answer to any of the questions is No, the student is not eligible to participate in an alternate assessment and must participate in the regular assessments. Each Yes answer requires a justification that contains evidence that the student meets the criteria.

- Does the student require intensive, individualized instruction in a variety of instructional settings?
- Does the student have a significant cognitive disability?
- Does the student require specialized supports to access and participate in the grade-level GSEs that require modifications based on the student’s Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)?
- Does the student require specialized supports to demonstrate age-appropriate adaptive behavior?

Grade	All Students (K-HS)		Active ESOL Students (Aspen: ELL/LEP = Yes)	
	Regular Assessment	Alternate Assessment	Regular Assessment	Alternate Assessment
Kindergarten	MAP Growth	GKIDS Readiness & GKIDS	ACCESS for ELLs	ACCESS for ELLs
Grades 1 & 2	MAP Growth	Marietta Alternate Assessment	ACCESS for ELLs	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
Grades 3 – 8	EOG & MAP Growth	Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0)	ACCESS for ELLs	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
High School	EOC & MAP Growth (grades 9 & 10)	Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0)	ACCESS for ELLs	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

IEP teams who are considering students for an alternate assessment must consult with the Director of Assessment **and** District Administrator for Special Services prior to a decision being made in an IEP meeting. Once a student has qualified for an alternate assessment, the student must be coded in Aspen appropriately (GAA Flag = Yes), regardless of grade level.