Welcome to Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments for the 2014-2015 school year. This is the first presentation in a series of eight that address Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments. In this presentation we will examine the Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments Policy.
Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments Policy includes legal requirements and participation criteria.
In this section of the presentation we will examine the legislative requirements.
Legal Requirements

• The Alternate Assessment is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Legislation, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Iowa Code Chapter 12.

The Alternate Assessment is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Legislation and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Iowa Code Chapter 12.
Alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards are assessments used to evaluate the academic performance of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
Alternate Assessments are meant to assess the grade-level academic content with *less depth, breadth, and complexity* than the regular assessment, and with a *different* definition of how well and how much students know and do in the content to be considered proficient.
The Content areas and grades assessed in Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments are
• Reading Grades 3-8, 10, and 11
• Math, Grades 3-8, 10, and 11
• Science-grades 5, 8, and 11
The achievement of these students on grade-level content is very different from their general education classroom peers, but the evidence of their work is compelling.
These students are able to learn academic content standards with reduced complexity, breadth, and depth clearly linked to the same grade-level content as their peers.
Legal Requirements

• These content standards, derived from Iowa Core Standards, are called the Iowa Core Essential Elements.

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The Iowa Core ELA and Math Essential Elements
• Reflect high expectations
• Are clearly linked to grade-level academic content standards
• That yield student achievement and prepare our students with significant cognitive disabilities for college & career readiness
The Iowa Core Essential Elements are not a redefinition of the Iowa Core Standards.
Legal Requirements

• They are specific statements of knowledge and skills linked to grade-level Iowa Core Standards and are intended to describe challenging expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

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The Iowa Core Essential Elements satisfy the requirement of the U.S. Department of Education that Iowa have alternate achievement standards for its students with significant cognitive disabilities.
Legal Requirements

- The Iowa Core Essential Elements are located on the DE Iowa Core Webpage
  – Essential Elements for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Iowa Core Essential Elements are located on the DE Iowa Core Webpage, *Essential Elements for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.*
In this section of the presentation we will examine Iowa’s Alternate Assessment participation criteria.
National data on who participates in Alternate Assessments show that participating students are those with the most severe intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities.

Students who represent fewer than 1 percent of all students, or less than 10 percent of all students who have disabilities.
These are students for whom general education assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate.
The figure of 1 percent is the regulatory cap on the percent of students whose scores on Alternate Assessment can be treated as proficient for purposes of school accountability.
More students can participate in the Alternate Assessment than 1 percent, but the cap on how the scores are used in accountability is meant to avoid inappropriate inclusion of many students in a lower achievement expectation than evidence suggests is warranted.
The criteria for participation in Iowa's Alternate Assessments reflect the pervasive nature of a significant cognitive disability.
Participation Criteria

- Students taking the Iowa’s Alternate Assessments require extensive, direct instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains.
They receive instruction on the Iowa Core Essential Elements which are aligned to the Iowa Core Standards but are of reduced breadth, depth, and complexity.
IEP teams use the Participation located on the DE IAA webpage.

The participation criteria is scheduled to be programmed into the State-wide Web IEP.
Beginning in Fall 2014, if a student is determined to participate in Iowa’s Alternate Assessments, IEP teams must select the alternate assessment as the only option for all subject content areas assessed.
Participation Criteria

• Change 2014-2015
  – Students who participate in Iowa’s Alternate Assessments will not participate in Iowa Assessments
  • IEP Teams will need to determine appropriate assessment participation September 1, 2014

Students who participate in Iowa’s Alternate Assessments will not participate in Iowa Assessments
IEP Teams will need to meet prior to September 1, 2014 prior to the alternate assessment test administration to determine appropriate assessment participation.
Contact Information

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Please provide comments and questions regarding this webcast in the survey link. For additional information on Iowa’s AYP Alternates for the 2014-2015 school year, please contact Emily Thatcher.