



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
wvde.us

February 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA), also known as the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment, in Grades 3-8 and 11 in spring 2024. The WVASA supports student learning and measures what a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities knows and can do.

The WVASA is an untimed test administered online. All public school students – including public virtual school students, public charter school students, and public virtual charter school students – who meet the participation criteria for alternate assessment outlined in *The Participation Guidelines for West Virginia State Assessments* will participate in the WVASA at the grade level in which they are enrolled. Students are assessed in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 for English language arts and mathematics, and Grades 5, 8, and 11 for science. The test will be administered at your student's school or at an off-site location to be determined by the county or charter school. Individual student reports will be sent to parents/guardians.

I respectfully request that you encourage your student to perform to the best of their ability during the WVASA this spring. The Frequently Asked Question document included with this letter will provide additional details regarding this year's test administration.

A separate informational sheet that describes the alternate summative assessment and the use of test results to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards also is included. The informational sheet is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the components of alternate assessment.

Your student's school will provide you with more information about this year's administration, including when the assessment will be administered. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the principal or counselor at your student's school, or the county test coordinator at your county's board of education office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele L. Blatt".

Michele L. Blatt
State Superintendent of Schools

MLB/VR:cc

Enclosures



West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment

Grades 3-8 and 11 | *An Informational Guide for Parents/Guardians*

This informational guide provides information regarding the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA), which is specifically designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose performance cannot be adequately assessed through the West Virginia General Summative Assessment even with accommodations.

Important Information

Students who are administered the alternate assessment will be instructed using the appropriate grade level West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2520.16 (WVAAAS). It is important to note that students will still have access to grade level content standards.

The alternate assessment documents a student's efforts, achievement, and progress on instructional activities aligned to specific WVAAAS and includes descriptions of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in a specific content area.

The alternate assessment is administered individually to students and measures performance in three content areas:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Grades 3-8 and 11

Mathematics

- Grades 3-8 and 11

Science

- Grades 5, 8 and 11

Frequent Questions

How does participating in statewide assessments benefit my student?

Assessments provide important information about progress and achievement. Assessment results help the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team plan the best instruction to meet your student's specific educational needs.

Who determines how my student will be assessed?

Your student's IEP team makes decisions about assessment. You and the other IEP team members follow state guidelines to decide how your student participates in statewide assessments.

Will I receive my student's assessment results?

Yes, you will receive an individual student report that shows your student's achievement level in each content area.

West Virginia is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium. The assessments are online and are linked to the WVAAAS.

All students participate in state accountability assessments. The Dynamic Learning Maps™ Alternate Assessment System (DLM™) is an instructionally relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do.

Your student does not need to prepare in any way for the assessment. Assessments are delivered in testlets with each testlet containing 3 to 8 questions. Students receive between 5 and 7 testlets, depending on the grade and subject. The assessment is administered in a one-on-one setting. The assessment is designed to meet the individualized needs of each student.

All times noted are estimates or ranges. Total testing time varies depending on a student's unique learning needs. Testlets may be taken separately across multiple testing sessions as long as they are all completed within the testing window.

Total Testing Time

- 70-90 minutes in ELA
- 35-60 minutes in mathematics
- 30-60 minutes in science

All results are completely confidential, and you will be provided a performance report. If you would like more information about DLM, please visit:

<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/westvirginia>

For more information, please contact your student's school or your district board office.



Frequently Asked Questions

Spring 2024 West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment (WVASA)

Q. What are the benefits for students to take the WVASA?

- A. The WVASA, also known as the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment, provides important information that can be used to help improve instruction for each individual student. Results from the assessment can help teachers and school administrators pinpoint areas of weakness and identify possible achievement gaps to help teachers adjust instruction for each student. It is important that we obtain a valid measure of your student's academic achievement.

Q. Will students' WVASA scores affect their grades, promotion, or graduation?

- A. WVASA results generally do not influence students' grades or grade-level advancement. However, results may be used to assess students' academic status when making decisions during the scheduling of courses, Student Assistant Team (SAT) meetings, etc. No aspect of WVDE Policy 2510 requires achievement scores for graduation.

Q. Can students opt out of taking the state's summative assessment in spring 2024?

- A. Neither West Virginia law nor the regulations of the West Virginia Board of Education contain any provisions for "opting-out" of statewide assessments, and we are aware of no legal right for parents or students to do so.

Q. Can students take the test remotely?

- A. No, remote testing is not allowed. All tests are administered in an in-person setting.

Q. Do virtual school students and public charter school students have to take the test?

- A. Yes, virtual school students and public charter school students are considered public school students and are required to take the annual statewide summative tests at the grade level they are enrolled. The county will provide additional information regarding testing dates and times.

Q. Are virtual school students and public charter school students required to take the test at the school?

- A. All students must take the tests in person at the schools where they are enrolled or at off-site locations established by the county or charter school for testing. Counties and schools will determine a schedule and notify you of when and where your student is to report for testing. Counties and schools have several options for testing that will ensure all students can take their tests safely. Talk to your student's school to determine the best solution for ensuring your student can take the test.

For additional information regarding the spring 2024 statewide assessments, please contact your student's school.