



Special Information for All Educators State and District-Wide Assessments

Background Information

According to the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO), in the early 1990s, 10% or fewer of students with disabilities were included in state assessments.

Accommodations were few, if they existed. This resulted in low expectations for the educational programs of students with disabilities.

Over the last 10 years, an increasing number of students with disabilities have been taking statewide assessments. By 1998, over 50% of students with disabilities were participating. In the mid 1990s, students with disabilities started to use accommodations during assessments and the results of those tests began to be included in 2000 reports.

Students with disabilities need to be included in state and district-wide assessments if an accurate picture of student achievement across all students is to be provided. The results of these assessments are used to make state and district educational policy decisions. Students with disabilities benefit when expectations for them rise and they gain increased access to the curriculum.

Connections to the Law

The 1997 Reauthorization of IDEA requires States to have policies and procedures to ensure that children with disabilities are included in assessment programs with appropriate accommodations where necessary. Including all children in assessments is based on a number of federal laws beyond IDEA,

including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

To learn more about the IDEA regulations, use the Discover IDEA CD 2002 or visit ASPIIRE/ILIAD web site at www.ideapractices.org.

The IDEA regulations that deal with state and district-wide assessments are listed here, organized in a question format.

- **How does IDEA provide for the participation of children with disabilities in State and district-wide assessments of achievement? 34 C.F.R. §300.138 –** Participation in assessments
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17)(A))
- **What must be included in the IEP regarding a child's participation in State and district-wide assessments? 34 C.F.R. §300.347(a)(5) Content of the IEP**
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A) and (d)(6)(A)(ii))
- **What is the responsibility of the IEP team for considering a child's performance results on State and district-wide assessments? 34 C.F.R. §300.346 –** Development, review, and revision of IEP.
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(3) and (4)(B) and (e))

- **How are students' scores to be reported? 34 C.F.R. §300.139** - Reports relating to assessments.
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 612(a)(17)(B))

Relevant Materials

Detailed ordering information of selected materials related to State and district-wide assessments can be found on

www.ideapractice.org

- **Annotated Materials**
 - *A Summary of Research on Test Changes: An Empirical Basis for Defining Accommodations*
 - *Clarification of the Role of the IEP Team in Selecting Individual Accommodations, Modifications in Administration, and Alternate Assessments for State and district-wide Assessments of Student Achievement*
 - *Making Assessment Accommodations: A Toolkit for Educators*
 - *Students with Disabilities in Standards-based Reform*
 - *Questions and Answers about Provisions in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997 related to Students with Disabilities and State and District-wide Assessments*
- **Resources that Address State and District-wide Assessment**
 - *Every Single Student PEER Project*
 - *Discover IDEA CD 2002*
 - *Implementing IDEA: A Guide for Principals*
 - *Testing Students with Disabilities: Practical Strategies for Complying with District and State Requirements*
 - *Twentieth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*
 - *The Use of Tests when Making High-Stakes Decision for Students: A Resource Guide for Educators and Policymakers*

Web Resources

Discover IDEA documents

- www.ideapractices.org
- www.fape.org
- www.ideapolicy.org
- www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP
- www.nichcy.org

Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

- www.ccsso.org

Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute (IHDI)

- www.ihdi.uky.edu/index.htm

LD OnLine

- www.ldonline.org

National Center on Education Outcomes (NCEO)

- www.coled.umn.edu/NCEO

Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC)

- <http://interact.uoregon.edu/wrrc/wrrc.htm>

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