



The Collaborative's Guide to New York State Alternative Assessment (NYSAA)

WHAT

The NYSAA is an assessment in which students with severe cognitive disabilities demonstrate their performance toward achieving the NYS P-12 CCLS in ELA, math, science and social studies (depending on the grade level being tested). Student performance is recorded in a datafolio, and includes direct observation and documentation of information such as student work products, photographs, audio and videotapes.

The CSE uses the following criteria to determine whether a student is eligible to take the NYSAA:

- Student has a severe cognitive disability and significant deficits in communication/language and significant deficits in adaptive behavior; and
- Student requires a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, application, and transfer of skills across natural environments (home, school, community, and/or workplace); and
- Student requires educational support systems (assistive technology, personal care services, health/medical services, or behavioral intervention)

“Students with severe disabilities” refers to students who have:

- limited cognitive abilities combined with behavioral and/or physical limitations
- require highly specialized education and/or social, psychological, and medical services
- may experience severe speech, language, and/or perceptual-cognitive impairments and challenging behaviors that interfere with learning and socialization opportunities
- may also have extremely fragile physiological conditions and may require personal care, physical/verbal supports, and assistive technology devices.

WHEN

Age Ranges for Testing on the NYSAA in 2014–15

Assessment	Birth Date	Student's Age between September 1, 2014, and August 31, 2015
Grade 3 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 2005—August 31, 2006	9
Grade 4 ELA, Mathematics, Science	September 1, 2004—August 31, 2005	10
Grade 5 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 2003—August 31, 2004	11
Grade 6 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 2002—August 31, 2003	12
Grade 7 ELA, Mathematics	September 1, 2001—August 31, 2002	13
Grade 8 ELA, Mathematics, Science	September 1, 2000—August 31, 2001	14
Secondary-Level ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	September 1, 1996—August 31, 1997	18*

NYSAA eligible students are assessed yearly, according to chronological ages aligned with grade levels. Assessment begins in the school year they become 9 years old and continue until the school year they become 14 (grade equivalents 3-8). The secondary level NYSAA is administered during the school year they become 17-18 years of age (high school). *Note: NYSAA-eligible students who do not meet the age criteria above and will be leaving school before they reach their 18th birthday must take the secondary-level NYSAA before they leave school (i.e., when they are 17 years old. NYSAA-eligible students with a birth date prior to September 1, 1996 who have not been assessed at the secondary-level must be assessed in 2014-15 before they leave school.

Basic Steps to Administering the NYSAA

1. Determine Eligibility

- CSE determines eligibility according to specified criteria
- Use Age Range table to determine appropriate grade level assessments

2. Administer the NYSAA (September 29th, 2014 – February 27th, 2015)

- Determine appropriate assessment tasks and plan evidence
- Conduct baseline assessments for all tasks (must score 74% or lower)
- Provide instruction for more than 15 school days
- Schedule your Collegial Review
- Complete final assessments



Collegial Review is required for each student datafolio. Multiple reviews are recommended.

3. Assemble Datafolio and Finalize NYSAA

- Complete Verifying Evidence Documentation
- Complete Data Summary Sheet Documentation
- Assemble and Submit Datafolio to DOE

Additional Resources



- [2014–15 Elementary and Intermediate level Testing Schedule](#)
- [A Parent's Quick Guide to NYSAA](#)
- [Eligibility and Participation Criteria - NYSAA](#)
- [Office of State Assessment NYSAA Administration Information](#)
- [Questions and Answers Regarding the Administration of the 2013-14 NYSAA](#)

