

Iowa Alternate Assessment Webinar -#1 Participation Transcript

Slide 1: Welcome to IAA process for this current school year. This webinar, the 1st in a series of 8, entitled, "Iowa Alternate Assessment Participation" provides IAA guidance and policy. The intended audience for this webinar includes teachers, parents, administrators and AEA personnel.

This presentation will provide you important information which will enable you to successfully complete the IAA for each of your students.

Slide 2: The Iowa Core is the mandated curriculum for all students, including those who have significant disabilities. Alexa Posny-Assistant Secretary for Special Education, United States Department of Education indicates that "Students with disabilities are general education students first".

Slide 3: Students with significant disabilities have two types of content in their instructional programming. The Iowa Core Standards

Slide 4: and the Expanded Core

Slide 5: One way to understand how students with significant disabilities are instructed the Iowa Core is by looking at the individual components of :Content- the standards, Instruction ,and Assessment

Slide 6: In order for Students to be taught Iowa Core Content Standards they must access these standards. Accordingly teachers must plan for access

Slide 7: In order for Students to be taught the Iowa Core Standards they must participate in instruction. Teachers must teach the standards

Slide 8: Student achievement of the the Iowa Core is demonstrated by participation in the Iowa Alternate Assessment. Teachers must measure the progress of the standards

Slide 9: Students with significant disabilities require additional content to meet their access to life goals. This content is call the "Expanded Core"

Slide 10: These goals formerly identified as Adaptive Behavior Skills /vision and hearing are now defined as the "Expanded Core."

Slide 11: Aligned instruction begins with grade level, Iowa Core (at alternate achievement standards) and expanded to meet the individual learner requirements of the student. During instruction, teachers must plan for and embed the expanded core needs of their students.

Slide 12: This conceptual model illustrates the relationship between content, instruction, and assessment of the Iowa Core and Expanded Core. This occurs through person centered planning : looking at the areas of living, learning and working- access to life goals. Educators must first go to the general curriculum to see if these goals can be met by the Iowa Core. If these goals can not be addressed within Iowa Core then the Expanded core is enacted.

A student's IEP and academic assessment (the Iowa Alternate Assessment) is aligned to the Iowa Core. A student's special education assessments, progress reports, and evaluations that address their unique learning needs due to their disability, e.g. speech, OT, PT are aligned to the expanded core.

Slide 13: The Iowa Alternate Assessment is intended to be used with students with significant cognitive disabilities. National data on who participates in AA-AAS show that participating students are those with the most severe intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities—children who represent fewer than 1 percent of all students, or less than 10 percent of all students who have disabilities. The figure of 1 percent is the regulatory cap on the percent of students whose scores on AA-AAS can be treated as proficient for purposes of school accountability. More students can participate in the AA-AAS 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.

Slide 14: The Iowa Alternate Assessment process can flag students whose performance and learner characteristics indicate higher performance and might suggest that the student can access the Iowa Test. Even though the student may not score well on the Iowa Test

Slide 15: A student's IEP team determines if that student participates in the Iowa Alternate Assessment and in what content areas. They document this decision on the Web-IEP Content areas and grades are: Reading and Math-Grades 3-8 & 11 and Science- grades 5, 8, and 11.

Slide 16: Participation guidelines are available on the DE IAA webpage. Use these guidelines each IEP meeting to determine and ensure appropriate assessment participation.

Slide 17: Thank you for viewing the Iowa Alternate Assessment Participation webinar.

Slide 18: Please contact Emily Thatcher if you have questions regarding participation in the Iowa Alternate Assessment. The Iowa Department of Education appreciates the work that you do with your students. Thank you!

