



Date: May 16, 2024  
TO: Special Educators  
FROM: Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
SUBJECT: Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course dates and FAQs for new eligibility criteria for alternate assessment.

**Eligibility Training Course:** Thank you to everyone who took the Alternate Assessment Training Course! We had over 1,000 educators enroll in the course and more than 900 take the final quiz. We know that not everyone who was required to take the course was able to finish, some didn't pass the final quiz, and we've been getting questions about how to train new staff:

- **Fall training dates for the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course, Opportunity 2:** Thursday, August 1 to Monday, September 30, 2024 (exactly two months)
- **If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you need to schedule time in August or September to take the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course, Opportunity 2.**
  - Were you registered for the first Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course opportunity that closed on March 29 but unable to complete the modules?
  - Were you unable to pass the final quiz?
  - Are you new to your district *and did not* take the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course that closed on March 29?
    - If you took the course and passed the quiz in a different district, you do not need to take the course again.
- Other questions about the **Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course, Opportunity 2:**
  - **How do districts register new educators for Alternate Assessment Eligibility Training Course, Opportunity 2?** Our process for registration will

be different for the course opening in August. We will have new instructions for districts as we get closer to August 1.

- **Can districts conduct in-person, group training?** Each educator must watch each video on their own account and complete the quiz individually. However, you may sit with others to discuss the modules as you view them in a community of practice. You do not need to notify RIDE if your district plans to organize a group viewing. Please contact your district special education about training plans.
- **How will districts know if you passed the final quiz?** We will be sending lists of educators to each district special education director that will have your name and quiz grade. They will be able to use that information to issue CEU/PLUs.

#### FAQs:

- **Is it correct that the new eligibility rubrics/tools should be completed for any student (i.e. age 20 or age 5) to determine whether they would qualify for DLM?**

No. You only use the alternate assessment criteria and process for the following students:

- The IEP Team thinks the student **may** meet the eligibility criteria for the alternate assessment *and* the student is in one of the following grade levels: grade 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11.
- The student was found eligible in the past (under the previous criteria). IEP Teams must use the current criteria to determine if the student is still eligible.

#### Cognitive Testing

- **What do we do if we can't get a cognitive score for a student?**

We have met with a few districts to discuss specific students and based on those conversations we have some additional guidelines:

- You must have norm-referenced evaluations.
- You can use raw scores from subtests of the norm-referenced evaluations.
- You can use raw scores from subtests from multiple norm-referenced evaluations to arrive at a complete picture of the student's cognitive ability.

- The evaluations must meet the recency criteria outlined in our guidance and in the Eligibility Training Course (less than six years old).
- You may not use informal observations, checklists, or parent interviews to complete the cognitive sections of the rubrics.
- **How do I complete Tool A: Intellectual Functioning, for a nonverbal student?**
  - **Tool A:** For nonverbal students, do not complete the **Verbal Intelligence/Cognition** section of the rubric. Document on the rubric that the student is nonverbal. The **Nonverbal Intelligence/Cognition** section of the rubric must be completed using an evaluation appropriate for nonverbal students.
- **What cognitive tests are available for nonverbal students?** There are many options available for nonverbal students. We will have more information and guidance on using scores but here are *some* of the evaluations that were either designed with nonverbal students in mind or that have nonverbal components built in. If your district uses a different test, there is no need to change unless it is inappropriate for the student. If, after using an appropriate cognitive test, a score still cannot be obtained, contact Heather Heineke or Mary Ann Mello to discuss the data you gathered.
  - **Reynolds Adaptable Intelligence Test – Nonverbal (RAIT-NV)** - *Created for use with individuals who do not speak English, those with hearing impairments, individuals unwilling to communicate verbally, or populations with minimal language capabilities.*
  - **Comprehensive Test of Nonverbal Intelligence, Second Edition (CTONI-2)** *This is a nonverbal test tool that allows an evaluator to measure general intelligence when that child has barriers in verbal communication. It can be used to evaluate individuals from age 6 to 89 years.*
  - **Test of Nonverbal Intelligence, Fourth Edition (TONI-4)** – *requires no reading, writing, speaking, or listening on the examinee’s part. It is completely non-verbal. Can be used from ages 6 to 89 years of age. Can be administered in 15 to 20 minutes.*
  - **Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children, Second Edition (KABC-II)** - *This tool measures general intelligence and can be used for students from 3 to 18 years of age. It takes anywhere from 25-55 minutes to administer for the core battery or 35-70 minutes for the core plus additional subtests. A*

*nonverbal option can be used to assess a child whose verbal skills are significantly limited.*

- **Leiter International Performance Scale, Third Edition (Leiter-3)** - *Offers a completely nonverbal measure of intelligence that is ideal for use with those who are cognitively delayed, non-English speaking, hearing impaired, speech impaired, or on the autism spectrum. This tool can be used for ages 3-75 years to measure intelligence and cognitive abilities. It takes 20-45 minutes to administer.*
- **Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test, Second Edition (UNIT2)** – *This nonverbal intelligence test can be used for ages 5 years to 21 years. The abbreviated test battery takes only 10 – 15 minutes and there is a standard battery that has an administrations time of 30 minutes. All subtests are nonverbal and require a nonverbal response.*
- **Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV)** *has nonverbal components.*
- **Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales, Fifth Edition (SB-5)** - *This tool is used to assess levels of intelligence across several age spans and ability levels. It takes approximately an hour to complete and looks at 5 areas. Each of the subtests are given in a verbal or non-verbal method to accommodate very young children, even two-year-olds, and non-readers.*