

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

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RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

To: LEA Administrators

From: Phyllis Lynch, Chief, Division of Teaching and Learning
Heather Heineke, Assessment Specialist, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Re: Alternate Assessment Eligibility Forms Required for Making Eligibility Determinations

September 23, 2026

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released three updated rubrics and forms and one new form used for determining student eligibility for our state alternate assessments. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) involved in the education of a student from a Rhode Island public school system are required to use these rubrics and forms to determine if the student meets the criteria for participation in our state's alternate assessments.

The effective date is September 24, 2026. After this date, all LEAs are expected to use the rubrics and forms listed below as they implement our state eligibility process.

These are the required tools and forms:

1. Tool A: Intellectual Functioning Rubric (updated September 2026)
2. Tool B: Adaptive Functioning Rubric (no updates to current rubric)
3. Tool C: Previous Test Participation and Performance Documentation (no updates to current form)
4. IEP Team Eligibility for Alternate Assessment Documentation Form (updated September 2026)
5. Unobtainable Verbal Score Documentation Form (new for 2026-27)

**Rubrics and forms can be downloaded in MS Word format from www.ride.ri.gov/dlm (click on the Eligibility tab).*