

When is the WAA-SwD administered?

The WAA-SwD will be administered October 26-November 27, 2009. The WAA-SwD is not a timed test. Each student is administered the test on an individual basis. A student may take the test over several days, as long as it is completed within the testing window. The total time required to administer the tests varies; however, each subject area is estimated to take in total one hour.

Review of the WAA-SwD

All WAA-SwD tests will be made available for review under secure conditions. To help maintain the security of this test, only Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will retain copies of the test. Contact your school district assessment coordinator for more information.

Sample Test Questions

Sample test questions are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html>. These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on the WAA-SwD. Current WAA-SwD test questions are not released.

Wisconsin Extended Grade Band Standards

The Extended Grade Band Standards are descriptions of what students with significant disabilities are expected to know and be able to do at the appropriate grade level. These standards are linked to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. The Extended Grade Band Standards were developed by teams of Wisconsin educators including general education teachers, special education teachers, and content specialists. Information on the Extended Grade Band Standards is available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/assmt-extstd.html>.



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WISCONSIN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Student/Parent Pre-Test Information



2009-2010

Wisconsin Student Assessment System

Grades 3-8 & 10

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kristen Kehoe, Alternate Assessment Consultant, at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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A NOTE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

What is the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)?

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System is a statewide program designed to provide information about what all students know in core academic areas as defined by the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. The Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) is one component of WSAS.

The WSAS includes the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE). For more information about the WKCE, please refer to the WKCE Student/Parent Pre-Test Brochure, available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oed/publications.html>.

Statewide assessments are given to all students in grades 3-8 and 10.

What is the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities?

The WAA-SwD assesses the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Instruction for these students is based upon the Wisconsin Extended Grade Band Standards and reflects the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. The WAA-SwD for grades 3-8 and 10 measures achievement in reading and mathematics. Grades 4, 8, and 10 also measure achievement in science. All tests utilize a multiple choice format. Scores for social studies, language arts, and writing are determined through teacher rating scales, based upon classroom evidence, and reported with WAA-SwD test results.

What type of scores will be provided?

The WAA-SwD provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Extended Grade Band Standards. Students receive scores based on their performance. The performance levels were established by a panel of Wisconsin educators and citizens.

- **WAA-SwD Advanced** - Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires no support in instructional settings to demonstrate consistent understanding and mastery of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.
- **WAA-SwD Proficient** - Demonstrates understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires no support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding and mastery of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.
- **WAA-SwD Basic** - Demonstrates some understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires some support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding of the contents and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.
- **WAA-SwD Minimal Performance** - Demonstrates an emerging understanding of the academic content and skills tested on the WAA-SwD at that grade. Requires significant support in instructional settings to demonstrate understanding of the content and skills included in the Extended Grade Band Standards.

How are the test results used?

The WAA-SwD test results provide information about student achievement. To obtain a more complete picture, daily class work, other test results, homework, and other learning activities should be considered. Please talk to teachers and counselors about how the WAA-SwD information can be used with school and classroom information to help your child meet his or her educational goals. School district staff use test results to improve educational programs.

WAA-SwD results are used by the Department of Public Instruction in order to

- meet its legal requirement of identifying low-performing schools as determined by s.115.38(4), Wisconsin Statutes;
- meet the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requirements of using high-quality assessments to determine how well students are learning;
- meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine adequate yearly progress in Title I schools; and
- determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet the Wisconsin proficiency standards.

Who will be tested and when?

Participation in the WAA-SwD is an Individual Education Plan (IEP) team decision. The Participation Checklist should be used as a guiding document in this process. A copy of the Participation Checklist may be viewed at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html>. Students with disabilities who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the WAA-SwD take the WKCE with accommodations that are outlined in IEPs. A list of allowable accommodations on both the WAA-SwD and the WKCE can be viewed at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html>.