

## Alabama Alternate Assessment

(AAA)

### Primary Purposes

- To assess students' master of state extended content standards in reading, mathematics, and science
- To report individual and group performance
- To report relative strengths and weaknesses of individuals and groups
- To provide data to study changes in performance over time

### Content

- Grades K-8 and 11-Academic extended content standards in reading
- Grades 3-8 and 11-Academic extended content standards in mathematics
- Grades 5, 7, and 11-Academic extended content standards in science

### Additional Information

- The AAA is a criterion-referenced portfolio assessment.
- The AAA is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities working on the Alabama Extended Standards.
- Each extended standard has four levels of complexity.
  - Example: Mathematics Extended Standard 3.1
    - Complexity 4-Identify numbers from 1 to 100
    - Complexity 3-Count by 1's to 100
    - Complexity 2-Imitate counting by 1's to 100
    - Complexity 1-Interact with different size groups of objects 1-100
- The level of assistance provided by the teacher is important.
  - Independently-the student performs the task without prompting or support. The cognition of the task is performed by the student.
  - Prompting-the student is provided cues by the teacher to initiate or sustain the activity. The cognition of the task is performed by the student.
  - Support-the student receives direct assistance to achieve the skill. The cognition of the task is not performed by the student alone; however, the task is not completed by the teacher. This assistance is more than prompting.
- The compilation of the Body of Evidence completes the assessment process:
  - The teacher teaches and collects pieces of evidence reflective of the student's performance on a particular complexity level for each grade-level extended content standard throughout the school year.
  - During a three-week window in March, the teacher selects three pieces of evidence per extended content standard to send as the student's Body of Evidence.
  - Scorable evidence includes student worksheets/teacher tests, student work samples, annotated photographs, scripted audio/video, and written performance summaries.
  - The student's Body of Evidence is shipped to a vendor for scoring.
- The pieces of evidence in the Body of Evidence are scored using the AAA Rubric:
  - Alignment to the Extended Content Standard
  - Complexity of the Extended Content Standard
  - Level of Assistance Used
  - Mastery of Content

- Standards were set using Profile Sorting and a Contrasting Groups Study.
- Performance is reported in the following achievement levels:
  - Level I-Does not meet academic content standards
  - Level II-Partially meets academic content standards
  - Level III-Meets academic content standards (proficient or grade-level performance)
  - Level IV-Exceeds academic content standards
- Reading and mathematics results are used in Grades 3-8 and 11 in determining Adequate Yearly Progress, a requirement of No Child Left Behind.

**For More Information**

- Alabama Alternate Assessment Performance Descriptors  
<http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/documents.asp?section=91&sort=28&footer=sections>

**Contact Information**

For questions or additional information, please contact the Counseling and Testing office at 682-5913.