



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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TO:

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student. A Request for Proposals was released in Spring 2015 soliciting assessment programs that address, to the extent possible, the concerns and recommendations received from educators on the NYSAA. Proposal review committees included NYS educators from throughout the State, and these educators will continue to advise NYSED on the implementation the NYSAA, especially as the ELA and mathematics alternate assessments transition to a new format during the 2015-16 school year.

The following includes information specific to the two different assessment methods and timelines for NYSAA administration.

## **English Language Arts and Mathematics**

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, ELA and mathematics will be assessed using Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). DLM is a computer-delivered adaptive assessment measuring a student's achievement of the ELA and mathematics Common Core Learning Standards at a reduced level of depth, breadth, and complexity. This assessment provides the opportunity to customize the assessment to the individual abilities and needs of the student, is designed to measure a wide range of proficiencies of students, is quicker and easier to administer and score, and provides useful information to teachers to inform future instruction for the student. Administration of the NYSAA ELA and mathematics tests are scheduled for March 21, 2016 to June 3, 2016.

### Key Characteristics of the New NYSAA in ELA and Mathematics

- Assessments are administered individually to each student with a severe disability based upon the student's chronological age.
- Assessments are administered by using a computer or other electronic device to allow for assessment tasks to be adapted to the student's level of proficiency, thus allowing for an assessment that measures a greater breadth of proficiency than in the past. Computer-administered assessments will also allow for a wide range of technology-based assistive devices to be available.
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## **Science and Social Studies**

At this time the testing industry does not have an adaptive alternate assessment that meets NYSED's needs and addresses the concerns and recommendations heard from educators in the State, so the Science and Social Studies NYSAA will continue to be submitted in the current hard-copy, or portfolio-style format and Measured Progress, Inc. will continue as the contractor. In the coming years, NYSED will be moving forward with new frameworks in social studies and revised standards in science for all students. While this transition is occurring, NYSED will gather feedback from educators on the science and social studies components of NYSAA to inform new directions for the future of these portions of the NYSAA program. In the meantime, key characteristics of the science and social studies components will remain the same. Assessments for science and social studies are scheduled for December 7, 2015 to February 12, 2016.

### Key Characteristics of the NYSAA in Science and Social Studies

- Assessments are administered individually to each student with a severe cognitive disability based upon the student's chronological age.
- Hard copies of assessments are completed by hand, or by using the Measured Progress ProFile™ software, and pages are printed out to be submitted for scoring at the NYSAA scoring institutes.
- Datafolio-style assessments are printed out and compiled into three-ring binders.
- Scannable score sheets or answer sheets continue to be used.
- Assessments are scored in a hard-copy format at regional scoring institutes and in big-city scoring centers.
- Scores are reported using the Regional Information Centers (RICs) and large-city scanning centers interfacing with NYSED's Student Information Repository System.
- The customary recommendation that there be a time period of at least 15 school days between the baseline and the final administration will be shortened or eliminated.

Turnkey training will be provided by NYSED and Measured Progress, Inc. to NYSAA networks (AATN specialists, Score Site Coordinators, and Regional Lead Trainers) in the late fall. Using the Measured Progress iEnrollment system, AATN specialists will verify the schools and sites within their respective regions that will administer the 2015-16 NYSAA in science and/or social studies. A master set of these materials will be shipped to each site verified and materials can be duplicated as needed.

### **Additional Information**

- Consistent with previous years, all students with severe disabilities taking the NYSAA are assessed annually in the content areas indicated for each grade in accordance with the grade levels that correspond with their dates of birth. Information regarding the content

- Schools should expect that local NYSAA administration trainings for all four content areas will take place in late November 2015, or soon thereafter. The local AATN specialists will disseminate dates and locations for their local training sessions.

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NYSAA 2015-16  
Overview of Content Areas

**Revised**

Content Area	Grades Assessed	
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