

## New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) Participation Decision-Making Checklist

The checklist below **may** be used in conjunction with guidance provided in the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) *Eligibility and Participation Criteria – NYSSA* in the decision-making process to ensure that only those students with the most severe cognitive disabilities are taking NYSSA. The committee on special education (CSE) must determine annually whether a student will participate in NYSSA on a particular State assessment of student achievement (i.e., English language arts, mathematics, and/or science) and document this decision in the student's individualized education program. If the CSE indicates "YES" for **all** items below, the student may be determined eligible to participate in NYSSA. This checklist is for local use, only. Do **not** submit this form to NYSED. However, a copy should be retained in the student's special education record.

**Student:**

**Date:**

**Persons Involved in Decision-Making:**

Eligibility Criteria	YES	NO	Comments/Evidence
The student has a severe cognitive disability and significant deficits in communication/language and significant deficits in adaptive behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The student requires a highly specialized educational program that facilitates the acquisition, application, and transfer of skills across natural environments (home, school, community, and/or workplace).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The student requires educational support systems, such as assistive technology, personal care services, health/medical services, or behavioral intervention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Both qualitative and quantitative information (e.g., evaluative information, classroom data, anecdotal information) have been considered to inform decisions on the above-listed criteria. <sup>1*</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Check the recommendation that is most appropriate in meeting the needs of this student:**

- The student is recommended by the CSE to participate in the general New York State Assessment Program (with or without testing accommodations) for:
- English     Math     Science
- The student is recommended by the CSE to participate in NYSSA (with or without testing accommodations) for:
- English     Math     Science

**Parental Understanding:** If my child has been determined eligible to participate in NYSSA, I have been informed of and understand the following statements:

- My child's performance will be measured against alternate achievement standards that do not meet the expectations needed to earn a regular high school diploma (i.e., local or Regents diploma) in New York State (NYS).
- In order to earn a diploma in NYS, students must earn required course credits and participate in required Regents examinations, and my child will not be able to earn a NYS high school diploma if he/she continues to participate in NYSSA for one or more subjects in high school.

<sup>1\*</sup> The decision for the student's participation in NYSSA was **not** based on the following: category of disability, language differences; excessive or extended absences; cultural or environmental factors; previous low academic achievement; or previous need for accommodations to participate in State or district-wide assessments.