

**Overview of the 2009-2010
Alaska Alternate Assessments in Reading, Writing, Math, and Science**

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Alternate Assessment	The Alternate Assessment (AA) is a performance-task assessment using standardized materials that are provided on the assessment website. A Qualified Assessor, in a one-on-one setting with the student, administers the tasks. Tasks are grade level specific.
Content and Grade Levels Assessed	Students in grades 3 through 10 take Reading Writing Mathematics Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 take Science. No retakes for the Alternate Assessment in grades 11, 12, 12+ as the Alternate is a non-diploma track assessment.
Eligible Students	Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards were developed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Students must meet the participation criteria explained in the <i>Participation Guidelines</i> . The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) must designate and explain why the Alternate Assessment (AA) is the appropriate assessment for the student as well as explain why the Standards Based Assessment is not appropriate. A parent signature is required on the Assessment section of the IEP.
Test Window	March 1 through April 16, 2010
Qualified Assessors	Only trained and certified Qualified Assessors (QAs) may administer and score the Alternate Assessment. QAs are trained under the guidance of an AA Qualified Mentor Trainer (QT). Online training and proficiency modules are provided to provide reliable scoring. Assessors in training must also administer and score a practice test which is evaluated by a QT.
Training	New Mentor Training is provided September 28-29, 2009 in Juneau, AK. Webinar for returning mentors is scheduled October 1 and 2, 2009. Annual Mentor Training is provided October 26-27, 2009.
Website Information	Alaska Alternate Assessment, EED hosted Web site: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/alternate_optional.html Alaska Alternate Assessment-Reading/Writing/Math/Science online test and Assessor training, DRA hosted website: http://ak.k12test.com/ Secure DRA Web Reporting System for districts to obtain student reports, DRA hosted website: http://akreportsdev.k12test.com/