

Alternate Assessment Information for Families

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal law that requires states to test all students in English/Language Arts and Mathematics once a year if they are in grades 3-8 and once while they are in high school. If a student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), there are two assessment options - one of which is the alternate assessment. ESSA also states that the alternate assessment is only for students with the most significant disabilities. No more than 1% of all students should take the alternate assessment.

General Assessment

- Most students with IEPs take the same standardized test as their classmates without IEPs.
- This assessment is based on Indiana Academic Standards.
- Students may take this assessment with accommodations.

Alternate Assessment

- In Indiana the alternate assessment is called I AM, which stands for Indiana's Alternate Measure.
- Some students with IEPs are not able to take the general assessment, even with accommodations. These students take the alternate assessment.
- Taking the Alternate Assessment means that a student is on the path to earn a certificate of completion rather than a diploma.
- The alternate assessment is based on Content Connectors (NOT Indiana Academic Standards.)



Indiana Department of Education
Office of Special Education