

LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2) Participation Criteria

Guidance for the Participation Requirements for High School LAA 2 Assessments

UPDATE: Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, the LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2) will no longer be administered in grades 4-8. Students who have entered a high school cohort in 2013-2014 or prior will continue to have access to the LAA 2 high school exams to meet graduation requirements. Alternate diploma options for students who have entered a high school cohort beginning in 2014-2015 are in development and guidance will be provided at a later date.

The LAA 2 is based on modified academic achievement standards and is available for students whose disability has prevented them from attaining grade-level proficiency. The students must have access to a curriculum based on grade-level standards, and must be assessed with a measure that is also based on grade-level standards. The IEP Team makes the decision as to whether the student will participate in LAA 2 based on the LAA 2 Participation Criteria. Students taking LAA 2 at the high school level must participate in regular high school assessments, including End of Course Tests, to have access to the LAA 2 high school exams for graduation purposes.

IEP team members must use multiple sources of information to guide decision-making and document significant academic difficulties. Documentation may include current IEP goals and/or objectives, results from statewide assessments, recent results from other tests, class performance records, and growth rates compared to grade level national or local norms, including proficiency levels from prior years.

There must be documentation on the IEP that the student has significant academic difficulties, at least in English language arts, reading and/or mathematics, based on class performance records and local and state assessments.

The student was unsuccessful in passing the End of Course test for English II or English III, Algebra 1 or Geometry, and/ or Biology or U.S. History.



The student scored *Needs Improvement* on the English II or English III, Algebra 1 or Geometry, and/or Biology or U.S. History EOC.

The student has an IEP with goals based on academic standards for the student's enrolled grade and the student requires supports to access the general education curriculum.



The student has academic goals based on the standards for the student's enrolled grade. At a minimum, a student's IEP must have goals in ELA and/or mathematics that correspond to the LAA 2 content area test in which the student is participating. The student requires specially designed instruction and supports to access the general education curriculum and may require accommodations during classroom instruction and tests.

The student's progress to date, in response to appropriate instruction designed to address the student's individual needs is such that, even if significant growth occurs, the student will not achieve grade-level proficiency within the year covered by the student's IEP.



The student, even with direct, intensive, individualized instruction as indicated by the student's IEP, is unable to demonstrate competence of grade-level skills within the year through the monitoring of the student's progress in achieving those goals.

The decision to include the student in LAA 2 is not solely based on the *student safeguards* under Criterion 4 on the form.



The student must have significant academic difficulties to be eligible to participate in LAA 2. The safeguards cannot be the basis on which the student is determined eligible to participate in LAA2. The placement of a student in LAA 2 shall not be an administrative decision to bypass the high stakes testing policy.

LEAP ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT, LEVEL 2 (LAA 2) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA
for High School Students who entered a High School cohort prior to the 2014-15 school year

Student _____ DOB _____ Grade Enrolled _____
 School _____ LEA _____ Date* _____

The LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2) is based on modified academic achievement standards and allows students with persistent academic difficulties who are served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) to participate in academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning. There must be evidence from multiple sources that indicate the student is having **significant academic difficulties** in at least English language arts, reading and/or mathematics. The Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to provide the student with remediation and accommodations to ensure the student makes progress towards meeting his or her IEP goals and/or objectives related to the standards of the student’s enrolled grade. Students taking LAA 2 at the high school level must participate in regular high school assessments, including End of Course Tests, to have access to the LAA 2 high school exams for graduation purposes. Criteria for LAA 2 participation are described below.

CIRCLE “AGREE” OR “DISAGREE” FOR EACH STATEMENT. Evidence supporting Criteria 1, 2 and 3 must be addressed in the student’s IEP folder.

Criterion #1 – Evidence that the student’s disability has precluded the student from achieving grade level proficiency.

Agree **Disagree** The student scored *Needs Improvement* on the English II or English III, Algebra 1 or Geometry, and /or Biology or U.S. History EOC.

Criterion #2 – Evidence from multiple sources that the student’s IEP is based on the academic content standards and the student requires support to access the general education curriculum.

Agree **Disagree** The student has an IEP with goals in ELA and/or mathematics that correspond to the LAA 2 content area tests in which the student will participate and the student requires specially designed instruction and supports to access the general education curriculum.

Criterion #3 – Evidence from multiple sources that the student will not achieve grade level proficiency within the IEP year.

Agree **Disagree** The student’s progress to date, in response to appropriate direct instruction designed to address the student’s individual needs is such that, even if significant growth occurs, the student will not achieve grade-level proficiency within the year.

Criterion #4 – Student Safeguards

Agree **Disagree** The decision to include the student in LAA 2 is not **solely** based on the following:

1. the student’s placement	6. the student’s disability according to Bulletin 1508
2. excessive or extended absences	7. social, cultural, and/or economic differences
3. disruptive behavior	8. anticipated impact on school performance scores
4. English language proficiency	9. administrative decision
5. the student’s reading level	10. the expectation that the student will not perform well on the regular assessment

To be eligible to participate in LAA 2, the response to each of the four statements above must have been “Agree.”

A student is eligible to take a LAA 2 assessment to meet graduation requirements after scoring *Needs Improvement* on an End-of-Course test in the corresponding subject. The content areas for which the student will be taking LAA 2 must be identified on the student’s IEP and checked below.

ELA Mathematics Science Social Studies

Parental Understanding: If my child is eligible for and participates in LAA 2, my initials indicate I understand the statements below:

_____ I am aware that testing in LAA 2 means my child (I) is (am) having significant academic difficulties in reading, language arts and/or mathematics. It is an IEP team decision, based on the needs of my child (my needs), for my child (me) to participate in high school LAA 2.
 _____ I am aware that in the event my child (I) scores *Needs Improvement* on an End of Course Test, my child (I) may access the corresponding high school LAA 2 exam for graduation purposes.
 _____ I am aware that if my child (I) participate(s) in LAA 2 and meet(s) all graduation requirements, my child (I) will receive a High School Diploma.

IEP Team Decision: This form shall be attached to the student’s current IEP and uploaded in SER as Supporting Documentation. This form must be completed annually. The assessment decision must be documented on the student’s IEP.

_____ is **eligible** for participation in LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 and **will participate** in LAA 2 during high school.

(Student’s name)

_____ is **eligible** for participation in LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 but **will not participate** in LAA 2 during high school.

(Student’s name)

_____ is **not eligible** for participation in LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2.

(Student’s name)

Parent/Student Signature* _____ District/School Representative Signature* _____

*Signature and date are required. Copies must be included with the IEP and be provided to teacher(s), parent, and central office