



NJOSE Guidance Memo
2012-6

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State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commissioner

October 9, 2012

TO: Chief School Administrator
Director of Special Education
Administrator of a Charter School
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council

FROM: Peggy McDonald, Director *Peggy McDonald*
Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Reporting Requirements for District-wide Assessments

As part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's (IDEA) general supervisory requirements, the New Jersey Office of Special Education (NJOSE) is responsible for ensuring that all children with disabilities are included in district-wide assessments. (34 CFR §300.160) An assessment is considered to be a district-wide assessment if it is administered to all of the students in a particular grade(s). Students with disabilities must be provided with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments, if necessary, as indicated in their respective IEPs.

Federal regulations require the LEA to develop guidelines for the provision of appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. The guidelines must identify only those appropriate accommodations that do not invalidate the score of the assessment and require the documentation of such accommodations in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). (34 CFR §160(b)(2)) In addition, the LEA must develop and implement alternate assessments for those students who cannot participate in regular assessments, even with accommodations, and ensure that the manner in which the student will be assessed is documented in the IEP. (34 CFR §160(c))

If an LEA is administering a district-wide assessment and it publicly reports the results of that assessment, it must publicly report with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on the assessment of nondisabled children:

- the number of children with disabilities participating in regular assessments and the number of those children who were provided with accommodations;
- the number of children with disabilities participating in alternate assessments based on grade-level academic achievement standards;
- the number of children with disabilities participating in alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards;

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- the number of children with disabilities participating in alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards; and
- the performance results of children with disabilities on regular assessments, alternate assessments based on grade-level academic achievement standards, alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards, and alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards as compared with the achievement of all children.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the IDEA online grant application will include questions to identify those districts that administer district-wide assessments. The NJOSE will also be monitoring the implementation of district-wide assessments through the comprehensive monitoring process.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Kim Murray, manager, Bureau of Program Accountability, at 609-292-7605.

PM/KM/KE

c: Members, State Board of Education
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