
Characteristics of Students Who Take the Alternate Assessment

Who are the students who qualify to participate on the alternate assessment?

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities present problems with learning in these areas:

- **Attention to Stimuli**
 - Experience difficulty in attending to the salient features of a stimulus (e.g., size, color, shape, position) and which cue is indicative of the correct choice.
- **Memory**
 - Experience difficulty remembering when to use skills.
 - In different settings (home, school, etc.)
- **Generalization**
 - Experience difficulty applying what was learned in one situation to another different situation.
 - As observed with different people, different materials, different settings, and at different times.
- **Self-Regulation**
 - Experience difficulty identifying the appropriate action for the situation.
 - Monitor own behavior
 - Evaluate own behavior
 - Self-determine
- **Limited motor response repertoire**
 - Limited motor responses impacting
 - Oral language production (speaking)
 - Fine motor skills needed for writing and/or signing
- **Meta-cognition and Skill Synthesis**
 - Communication difficulties may interfere with or compromise meta-cognition.
 - Difficulty applying isolated skills in natural contexts.
 - Relevant skills must be taught in clusters.
- **Sensory Deficits**
 - Students may also experience sensory deficits in the areas of:
 - Vision
 - Hearing
 - Both vision and hearing
- **Special Health Care Needs**
 - May limit the number of days of school attendance
 - May limit the amount of alert time during instruction
 - seizures
 - medications

