

Understanding Kentucky Summative Assessments



What is KSA?

Every year, students across Kentucky take the **Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)**. KSA helps schools, families, and teachers understand how students are doing in school.

KSA Measures Skills in:

Reading
Math

Science
Social Studies

Who Takes KSA?

- ✓ Students in Kentucky public schools take KSA.
- ✓ Students take different tests depending on their grade level.
- ✓ Kentucky law requires schools to include students with disabilities in state testing.

Why does KSA matter?

- ✓ Measure student learning
- ✓ Identify areas where students and schools need support
- ✓ Help schools improve instruction
- ✓ Provide information to families

Can students receive Accommodations?

Yes!

Students who have an IEP or 504 Plan may receive accommodations during testing.

Examples include:

Extended time
Small group testing
Read aloud support when allowed
Frequent breaks
Special seating

Accommodations should be used during everyday instruction, not only during testing.



FEDERAL LAW

Federal law requires all students to participate in assessments.



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KDE sets testing requirements for the state.



SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Districts follow state requirements and create testing plans.



SCHOOLS

Schools administer the assessments to all eligible students.



ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE

Results help schools improve instruction and support student success for all.



Federal and state laws require schools to include all students in Kentucky assessments.

Understanding

Alternate Kentucky Summative Assessments

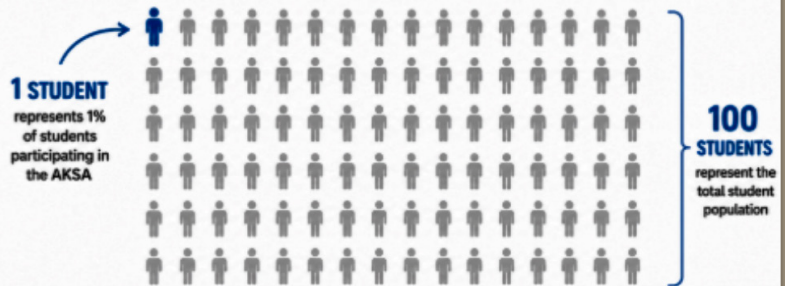


What is the AKSA?

The **Alternate Kentucky Summative Assessment (AKSA)** focuses on specific alternate learning targets. It measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do using state academic standards with assessment modifications.

1% OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AKSA

Kentucky cannot exceed more than 1% of the student population taking the AKSA.



THIS MEANS: AKSA is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who need alternate achievement standards.

Every year your child's ARC (**Admissions and Release Committee**) team will make a decision. The team:

Reviews school records and data from multiple settings over several years

Discusses assessment options and ensures parents have a voice in the decision-making process

Completes KY Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines Documentation Form

Document in IEP

KDE Guidance for Participation



Can Students still earn a regular diploma?

Students who participate in AKSA **may still work toward a regular Kentucky High School Diploma if graduation requirements are met.**

Participating in the alternate assessment does not prevent a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities from attempting to complete the requirements for a regular high school diploma as stated in IDEA Participation in Assessments **34 CFR §300.160 (d)(2)**

But, this decision can also affect:



Future Planning



Post Secondary Options



Employment

Because of this, the ARC team should carefully review all information every year before making a decision.

Accommodations and Assessment Supports



Accommodations help remove barriers. They do not change what is being tested.

Classroom Accommodations

- Extended time
- Preferred seating
- Visual supports and cues
- Small group instruction
- Breaks as needed
- Assistive technology
- Reader
- Scribe
- Note taking assistance
- Behavior supports
- Graphic organizers
- Calculator

Testing Accommodations

- Extended time
- Preferred seating
- Visual supports and cues
- Small group or individual testing
- Frequent breaks
- Assistive technology
- Scribe (when permitted)
- Reader (when permitted)
- Behavior supports
- Graphic organizers
- Noise reduction (headphones etc)
- Calculator (when permitted)



Note: Not all classroom accommodations can be used for testing (ex: paraphrasing)

Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability

Supports are for everyday - not just test day!



Where are they written?

Testing accommodations must be listed in your child's IEP or 504 plan.

These supports should match the accommodations your child uses during regular instruction



Can Accommodations be used in the KSA and the AKSA?



Accommodations may be used on both the KSA and AKSA.



All testing accommodations must be documented in the student's IEP/504 before they can be used.



The ARC team should consider and use appropriate KSA accommodations before determining AKSA eligibility.



Talk to the Team

If you have questions about your child's accommodations or assessments talk to your child's teacher, school administration, counselor or other members of your ARC.



Does my child use this support every day in class?

Does this support help my child succeed in class?

Will this support help my child during testing?

Assessment Decisions in the ARC meeting



Use this worksheet to help you start thinking about State Assessments, and accommodations for assessments during your next ARC meeting.

1 What data is being used to determine alternate assessment eligibility?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

2 Have we tried all possible accommodations on the standard assessment?



List any classroom accommodations that are not listed in the assessment accommodations below.

 **Need more info?**

KDE Parent Guide:
Alternate Kentucky
Summative
Assessment:
Important Terms
to Know and
Questions and
Answers

Has the ARC team talked to you about Alternate Assessments before?

☐

YES

☐

NO

If yes, what reasons were given for the decision made?

3 What impact will this have on my child's current and future options?



4 My Notes/Questions