

WISCONSIN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT – for Students with Disabilities

Description of the test:

The Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA) is a federally mandated standardized assessment under the No Child Left Behind Act. It is administered once a year to 3rd through 8th and 10th grade students with significant cognitive disabilities. It is an individually administered multiple choice assessment.

Why is the test given?

The WAA is a required accountability assessment. In contrast to the WKCE, the WAA has been developed to assess the Extended Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. These standards contain the essence of the Model Academic Standards but are more appropriate for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Who participates in the test?

Participation is determined by the IEP team.

When are the results available?

This assessment is administered in the fall (for the 2007 – 2008 school year the assessment was administered in January). The results are returned to districts in late Spring.

How are the results used?

- In the School District of Waukesha, student results are used to examine trends in achievement over time. This includes:
 - Examining overall student performance by various subgroups
 - Examining student performance on specific objectives over time
 - Periodically reviewing specific test items to guide professional development with content area teachers
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses results to monitor individual school and districts attainment of the state standards.
- The US Department of Education uses results to monitor the performance of Wisconsin public schools.

How are the results communicated to the community?

All students receive a student performance report which is mailed home in late spring. A summary of the School District of Waukesha performance is available here. The results of all public schools are available at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website

<http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data/selschool.asp>