

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PASA

The PASA is appropriate for which students?

The PASA is appropriate for students who have significant cognitive disabilities and require intensive instruction and extensive support in order to perform and/or participate meaningfully and productively in the every-day activities of integrated school, home, community, and work environments. These students require substantial modification of the general education curriculum as well as instruction in areas not presently assessed by the PSSA.

The decision about participation in the PSSA or the alternate test (PASA) is made by the IEP Team. The criteria questions below should guide the Team's decision-making. Check the appropriate box for each criterion, then total the number of check marks in each column at the bottom. Refer to these totals when reading the next section. Using the criteria table below, only students who have a YES score of six should be considered for the PASA.

CRITERIA	YES	NO
<u>Criterion 1.</u> By September of the present school year, is the student in grade 5, grade 8, or grade 11?		
<u>Criterion 2.</u> Does the student have significant cognitive disabilities?		
<u>Criterion 3.</u> Does the student require intensive instruction to learn?		
<u>Criterion 4.</u> Does the student require adaptation and support in order to perform and/or participate meaningfully and productively in the everyday life activities of integrated school, home, community, and work environments?		
<u>Criterion 5.</u> Does the student require substantial modifications of the general education curriculum?		
<u>Criterion 6.</u> Does the student's participation in the general education curriculum differ greatly in form and/or substance from that of most other students (for example, different objectives, materials or activities)?		
TOTAL:		

Using the table will help IEP Teams determine if the PASA is an appropriate choice for the student. In order to take the alternate assessment, the student must have ALL SIX "YES BOXES" CHECKED on the table. If the answer to any of the criteria is NO, the PASA may not be appropriate for the student. If the PASA is not appropriate, the student must take the PSSA.