

## Background

Did you know, the Multi-State Alternate Assessment System was designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities? The assessment system includes instructional resources for schools, educators and families, trainings for test administration for educators and data for schools. MSAA is administered to eligible students in the areas of ELA and Mathematics in Grades 3 – 8 and 11.

## Consistency and Practice

It can be important to provide as much consistency as possible. A little insight to the MSAA System and supports that can be used when providing instruction to your child, might be helpful.

## Assessment System

Why is it important to understand the MSAA Assessment System? It was designed to incorporate many built-in supports specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These supports are often used by educators in daily instruction.

## Built-In Supports

- Entire test can be read aloud
- Visual Supports
- Limited number of answer choice options
- Reduced text complexity- thoughtful adaptations of passages

## Supporting your child at home

During this unexpected change to the daily routine of attending school, parents are now faced with the additional task of providing educational experiences at home. The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) States want to offer resources and supports to ensure your child is supported at home and at school. Now parents and caregivers are becoming teachers. The MSAA States hope you can use the resources provided and have some insight as to what students are able to do.





## Built-In Supports Continued

- Scaffolds through modeling and demonstrations
- Use of “remember” statements to anchor the student in the task
- Use of graphic organizers, visual supports and scribe to complete writing tasks

## Parent Guides

The uniquely designed parent guides provide snapshots of grade level expectations and the educational experiences of your child. The guides identify targets or big ideas for each grade along with a preview skill at the next grade. These guides are also translated into Spanish.

## Practice Site

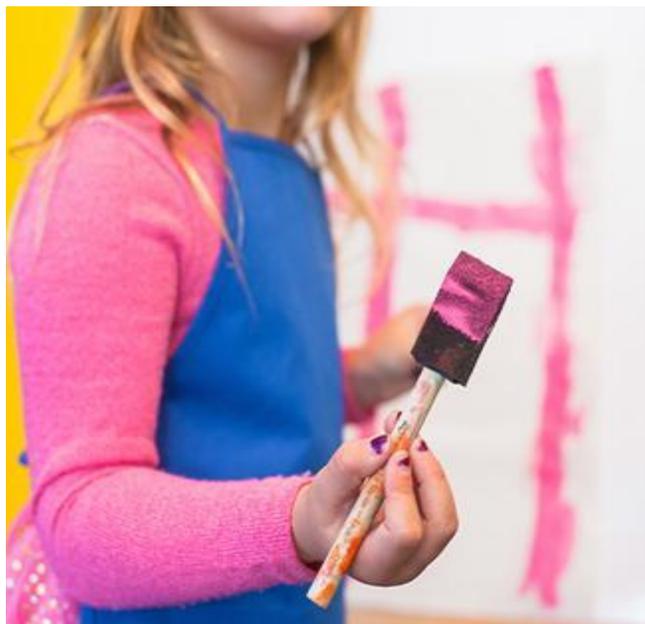
Using the MSAA Practice site allows students to become familiar with the assessment features and tools- these experiences can then be transferred to other online learning tools. A great resource is the **Demonstration Videos**. These videos highlight how to administer an item and how to determine if a student has a consistent communication mode. These can be used to show how instruction can be delivered and how students may need to be supported.

<https://www.msaaassessment.org/tap/sample-items>

## Instructional supports

MSAA’s instructional resources were originally developed under the NCSC grant.

[https://wiki.ncscpartners.org/index.php/Instructional\\_Resources](https://wiki.ncscpartners.org/index.php/Instructional_Resources)



**One goal of MSAA  
was to give  
teachers tools to  
build upon what  
they already know  
and are doing**

## Communication Tool Kit

Communicative Competence is at the heart of MSAA System. It is critically important for all students to have a consistent and observable communication mode. The Communication Tool Kit can support educators, related services providers, and families support children who are developing communication. These self-paced modules allow the user to select modules specific to their needs.

## TIES Center

The TIES Center (Increasing Time, Instructional Effectiveness, Engagement and State Support) is a national technical assistance center that is promoting inclusive practices for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The TIES Center has many resources for educators and has Distance Learning articles that provide information on particular topics such as schedule making and time management.

<https://tiescenter.org/>