



Montana

Office of Public Instruction

Five Things You Must Know About Alternate Assessments (MSAA, AMSA) This Year

**January 2024
Focused Webinar**

**Assessment Unit
Teaching and Learning Department**

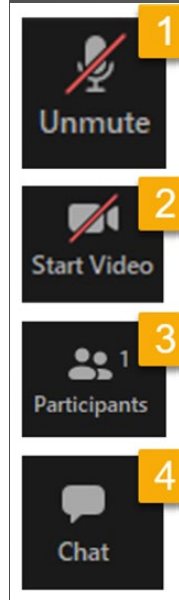
Recording Disclaimer

- The webinar will be recorded.
- We will post the recording on the [OPI Assessment YouTube channel](#).



Virtual Zoom Basics

- Mute your mic when it is not in use.
- Share your video if possible.
- Clearly name yourself as a participant.
- Use the chat to introduce yourself and engage with your peers.



Session Objectives

- Alternate Eligibility Criteria Guidelines
- Upload Process & Student Test Settings
- Practice Tests
- Early Stopping Rule (ESR) & Applicability
- Testing Portals
 - MSAA
 - AMSA



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Section 1

Alternate Assessment Eligibility Guidelines

Eligibility Criteria

- The OPI has constructed a set of guidelines for guidance on making decisions regarding students and alternate (alt) assessments.

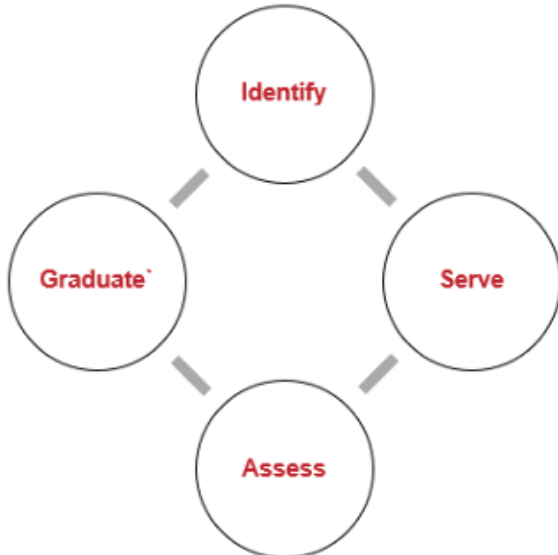
Link Below:

[Alternate Assessment Eligibility Guidelines \(OPI\) Workbook](#)

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Alternate Assessment Eligibility Guidelines

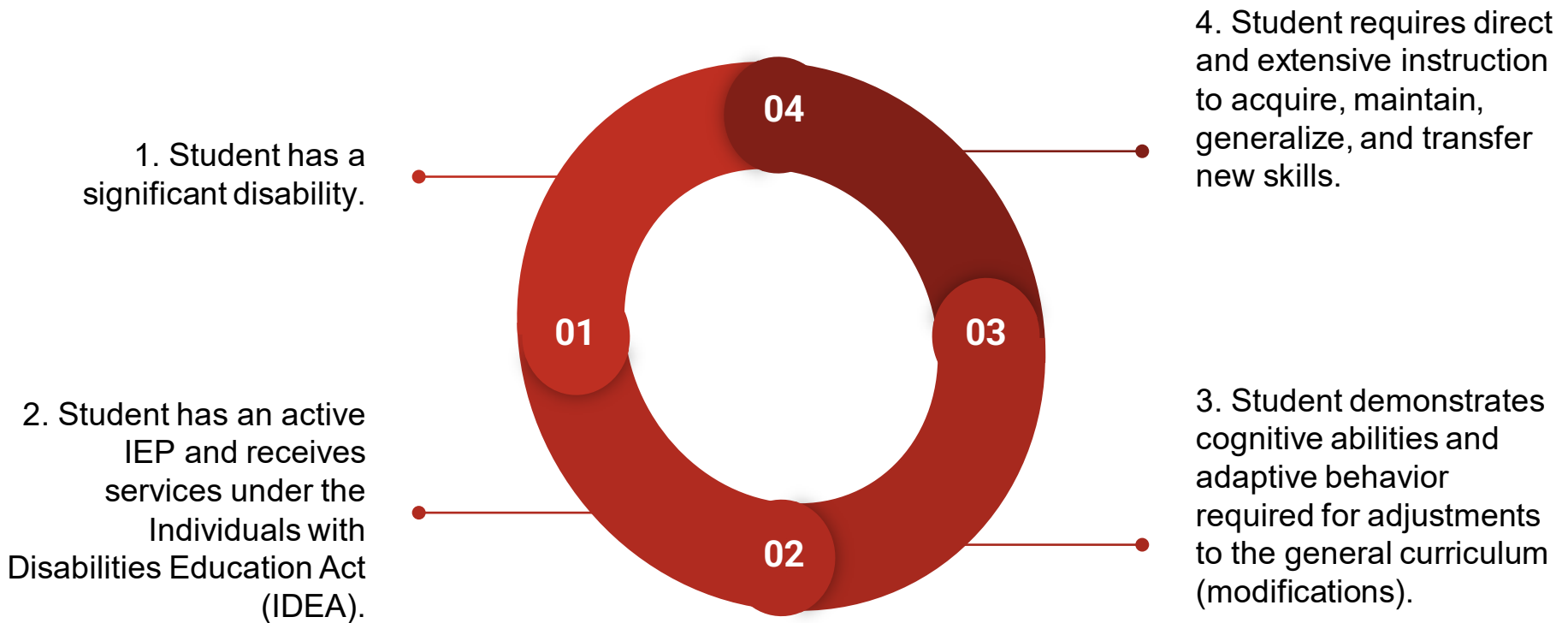
Guidance for IEP Teams on Participation Decisions for Alternate Assessments



```
graph TD; Identify --- Graduate; Graduate --- Assess; Assess --- Serve; Serve --- Identify;
```

Effective August 1, 2022
Reviewed August 21, 2023

Criteria for Participation



Determining Eligibility

1. Do the student records indicate a disability or multiple disabilities that most significantly impact intellectual function and adaptive behavior?

Answer = Yes

2. Would the student be appropriately challenged by the goals and instruction linked to the enrolled grade-level state standards knowledge and skills?

Answer = Yes

3a) Does the student require extensive, repeated, individualized instruction and support that is not of a temporary or transient nature?

Answer = Yes

3b) Does the student use substantially adapted materials with individualized methods of accessing information in alternate ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate, and transfer skills across academic content? **Answer = Yes**

With all of these conditions met, the student may participate in the Alternate Assessments through the qualifying pieces.

Decision Points

- IEP Teams
- Determine eligibility for alternate assessments
- Follow the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria Worksheet to help guide in decision-making as well.

Non-Examples

The following are not appropriate decision points to consider eligibility:

- A disability category or label
- Poor attendance or extended absences
- Social/cultural or economic difference
- Expected poor performance on the general education test
- Academic and other services the student receives
- Educational environment or instructional setting
- Percent of time receiving special education services
- English Learner (EL) status
- Low reading level/achievement level
- Anticipated disruptive behavior
- Impact of test scores on accountability system
- Administrator decision
- Need for accommodations (e.g. assistive technology/AAC) to participate in assessments



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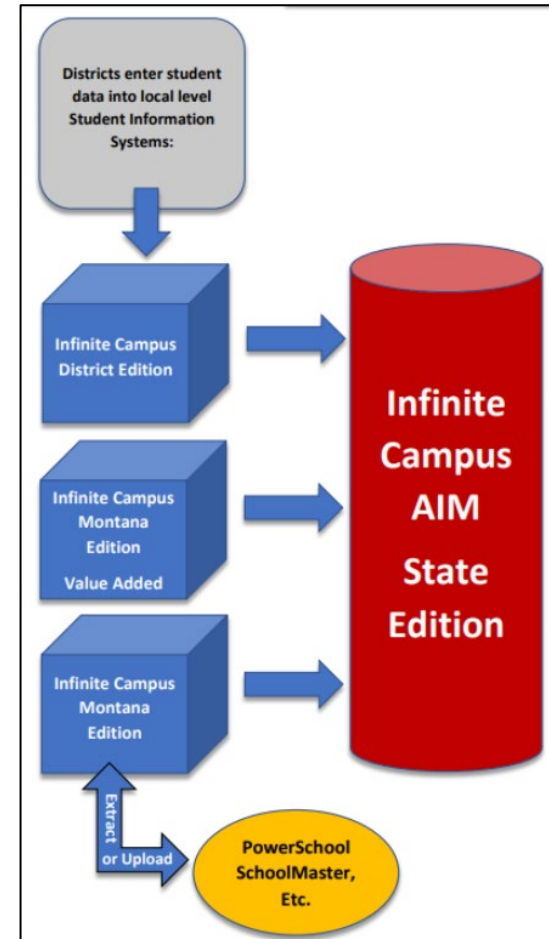
Section 2

Upload Process and Student Test Settings

Local Reporting

Mark alternate students within the districts Student Information System (SIS) as qualifying for an alternate assessment.

- Check the **Alternate Flag** in Infinite Campus/Powerschool.



MSAA Student Uploads

1

District-Level Student Information System (SIS)

Examples of these can include Infinite Campus, Powerschool, or others.

2

State-Level Database

The state-level database is AIM.

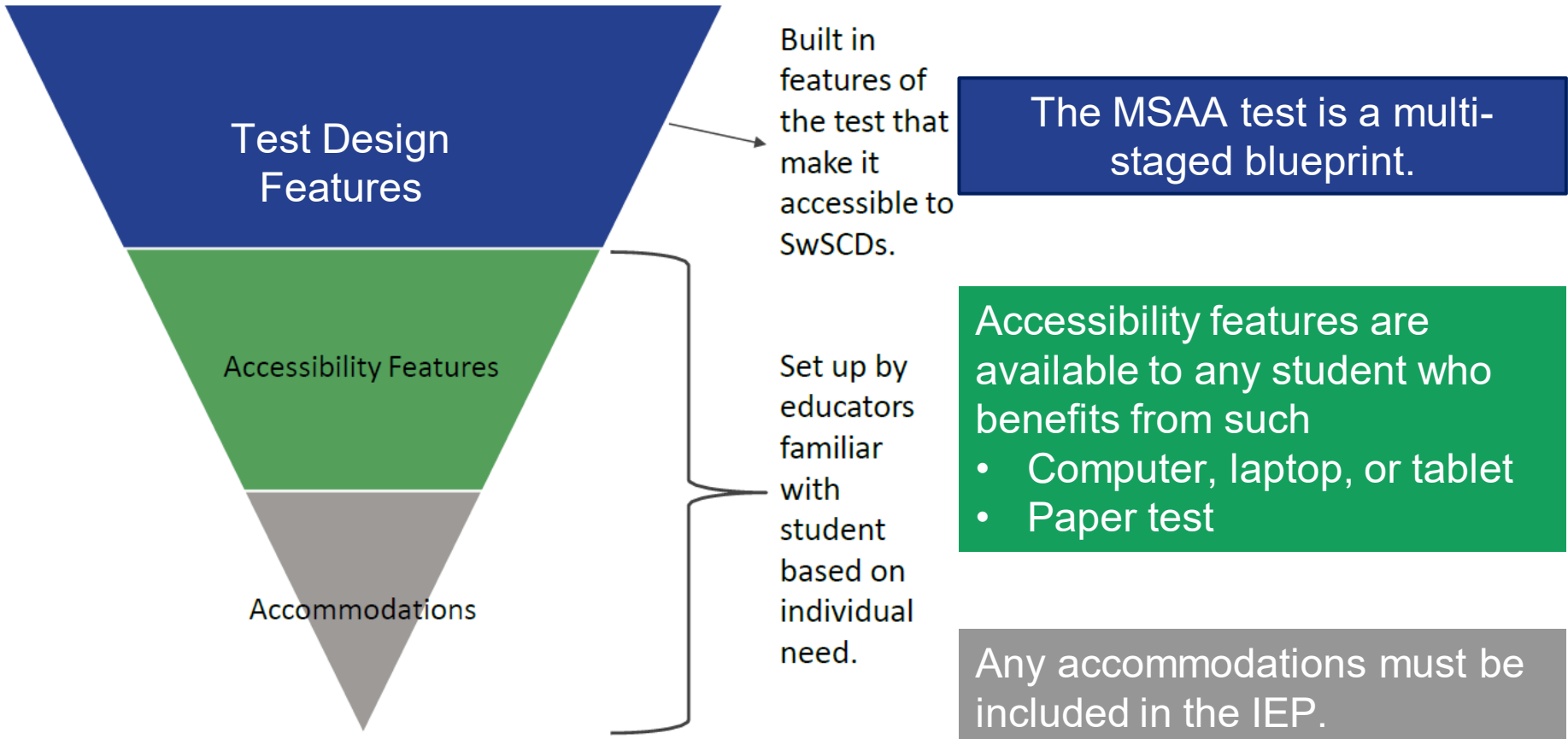
3

MSAA System

The MSAA system is where all information will be uploaded once it is pulled from district and state databases.

Do NOT upload students at the local level

MSAA - Tiered Approach



MCAA – Test Settings

01

Test Design Features

- 3 tiers of item complexity
- Stage Adapted Design
- 1:1 Administration
- Read Aloud and Scripted directions by TA
- Graphic Supports
- Modeling

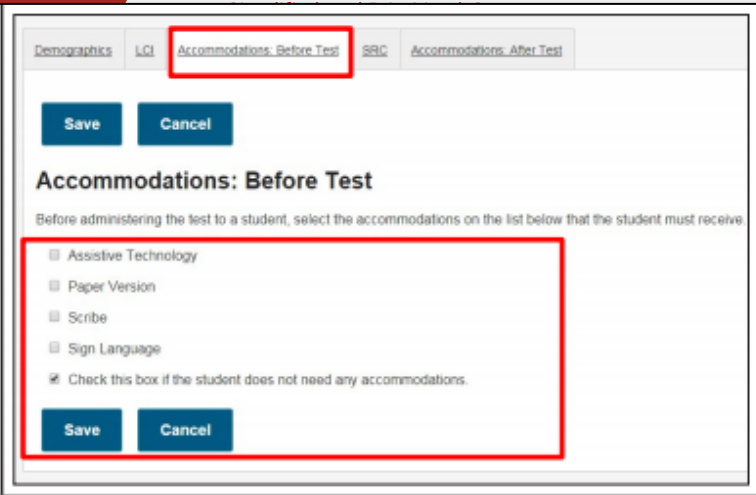
02

Accommodations

The **Accommodations: Before Test** tab MUST be completed before you start the student test.

Note: All accommodations documented in the student’s IEP should be selected

If the student does not need any accommodations, please select the last option: “Check this box if the student does not need any accommodations.”



Demographics LCI **Accommodations: Before Test** SRC Accommodations: After Test

Save Cancel

Accommodations: Before Test

Before administering the test to a student, select the accommodations on the list below that the student must receive

- Assistive Technology
- Paper Version
- Scribe
- Sign Language
- Check this box if the student does not need any accommodations.

Save Cancel

ate Color Theme
, Magnifying tool,

hematics, Tactile
ed, Tactile Symbols -

03

Accommodations

- Assistive Technology
- Paper Versions
- Scribe Actions
- Sign Language

AMSA Student Uploads















Tide is ONLY AS ACCURATE as what is entered into the district-level SIS.



TIDE Uploads Overview

AMSA - Test Settings

Some test settings are transferred from AIM and districts should audit accuracy of settings.

Accommodations (Embedded)		
Accommodations (Embedded)	ALT Science	ELA
American Sign Language 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON
Audio Transcriptions 		<input type="checkbox"/> OFF
Braille Type 		Not Applicable 
Closed Captioning 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON
Language (Designated Supports and Accommodations). Stacked Spanish Translations for Mathematics are considered a Designated Support. 	English 	English 
Speech-to-Text 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON

AMSA - Test Settings

Accessibility Features

Audio Playback
Breaks
Expandable Passages and Stimuli
Expandable Items
Highlight text
Magnification
Masking
No Response
Noise Buffers
Timing or Scheduling
Translated Test Directions
Separate Setting
Zoom

Available to All Students

Accommodations

Alternate Response Options
Read Aloud
Scribe
Sign Language

IEP or 504 Required



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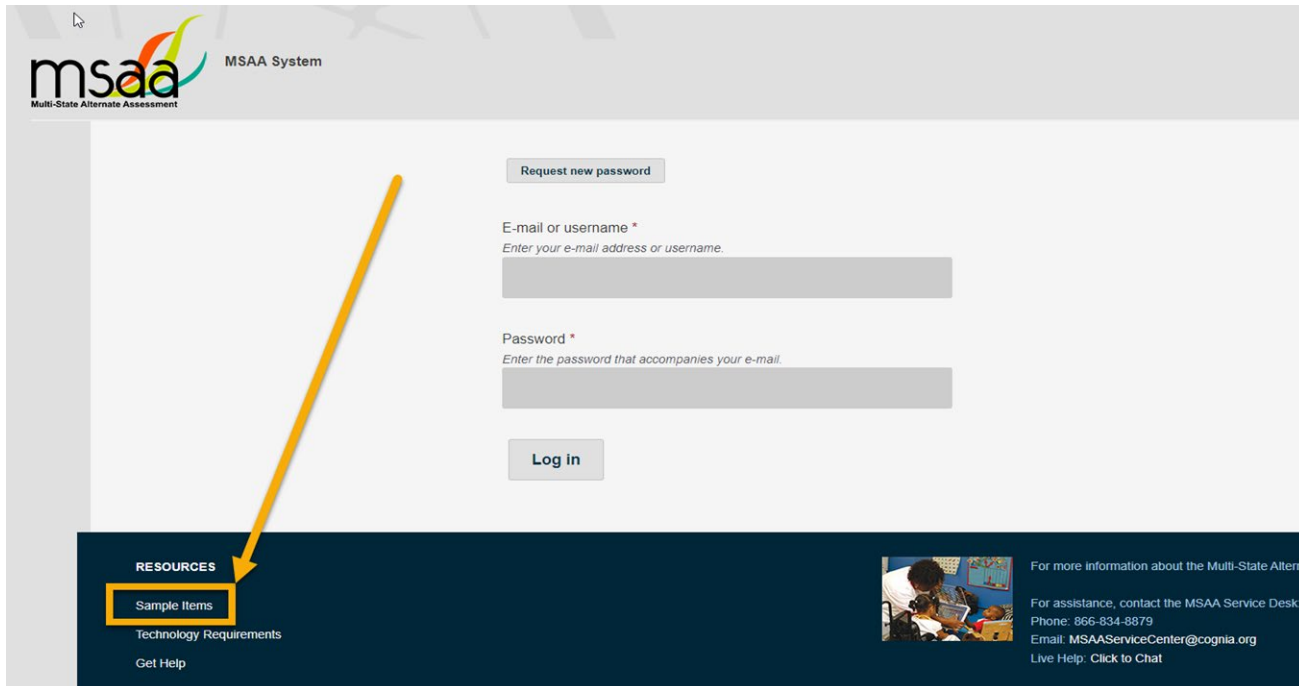
Section 3

Practice Tests and Resources

MSAA - Resources

Sample items with Teacher Guides

- Practice Test
- Designed to be used as a formative resource



The screenshot shows the MSAA System login page. At the top left is the MSAA logo (Multi-State Alternate Assessment) and the text 'MSAA System'. Below the logo is a 'Request new password' button. There are two input fields: 'E-mail or username *' with the placeholder text 'Enter your e-mail address or username.' and 'Password *' with the placeholder text 'Enter the password that accompanies your e-mail.'. Below these is a 'Log in' button. At the bottom, there is a dark blue navigation bar. On the left, under the heading 'RESOURCES', there are three links: 'Sample Items' (highlighted with a yellow box and a yellow arrow), 'Technology Requirements', and 'Get Help'. On the right, there is a small image of a student and text: 'For more information about the Multi-State Altern...', 'For assistance, contact the MSAA Service Desk.', 'Phone: 866-834-8879', 'Email: MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org', and 'Live Help: Click to Chat'.

MSAA - Resources

- Sample items and an accompanying Teacher Guide
- Best practices videos

Teacher Guides Download:
The Sample Items Teacher Guides can help teachers use the sample items as a formative assessment tool, allowing teachers to understand what can respond to this information through instruction.

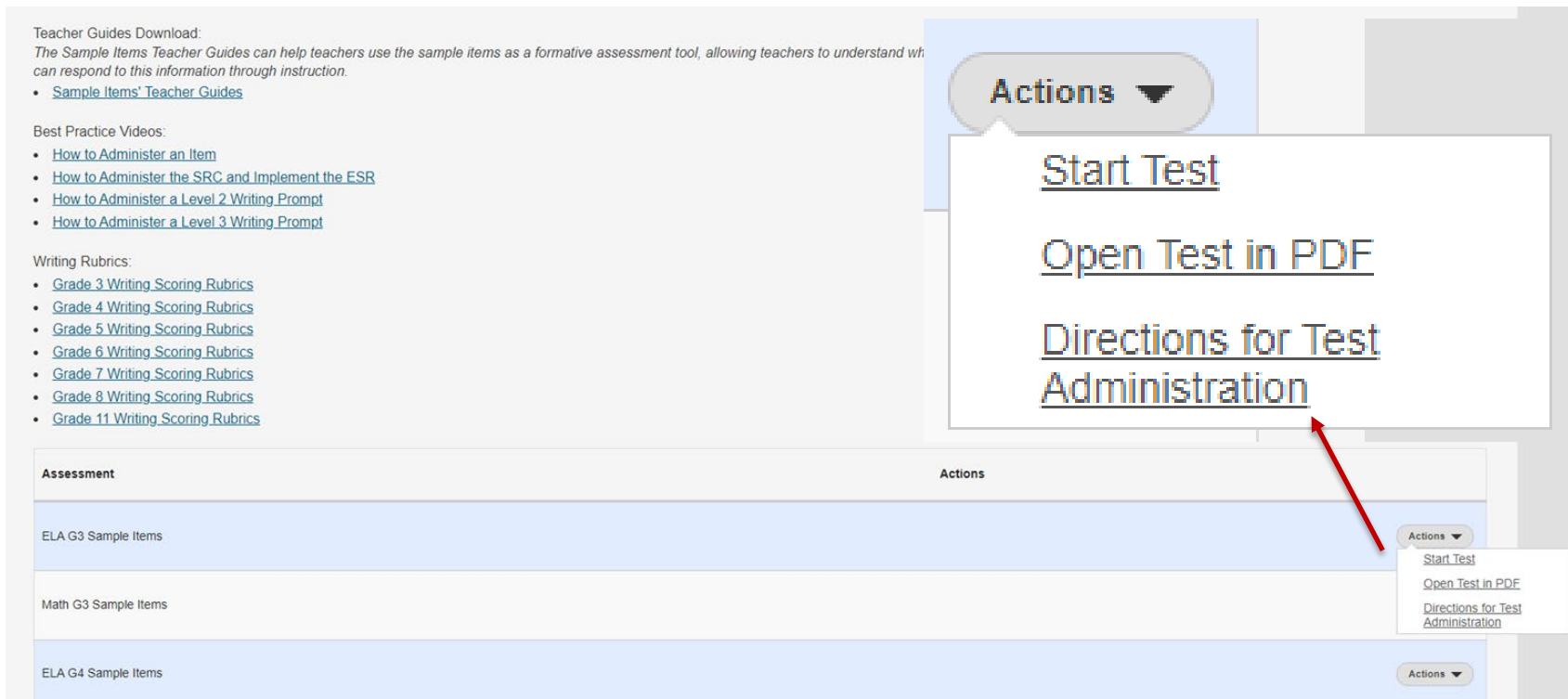
- [Sample Items' Teacher Guides](#)

Best Practice Videos:

- [How to Administer an Item](#)
- [How to Administer the SRC and Implement the ESR](#)
- [How to Administer a Level 2 Writing Prompt](#)
- [How to Administer a Level 3 Writing Prompt](#)

Writing Rubrics:

- [Grade 3 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 4 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 5 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 6 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 7 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 8 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)
- [Grade 11 Writing Scoring Rubrics](#)

The screenshot shows a web interface for MSAA resources. On the left, there are sections for 'Teacher Guides Download', 'Best Practice Videos', and 'Writing Rubrics', each with a list of links. On the right, there is a table with the following structure:

Assessment	Actions
ELA G3 Sample Items	Actions ▼
Math G3 Sample Items	Actions ▼
ELA G4 Sample Items	Actions ▼

A red arrow points from the 'Directions for Test Administration' option in the 'Actions' dropdown menu to the 'Directions for Test Administration' link in the screenshot's callout box. The callout box also lists 'Start Test' and 'Open Test in PDF'.

MSAA - Resources

- TIES Center | Educator, Family, School Supports

T

Time in general education

Increasing the number of students included in grade-level general education classrooms majority (at least 80%) of the school day

I

Instructional effectiveness

Collaboration across educators and specialized instructional support personnel to provide curriculum and instruction in general education classrooms

E

Engagement

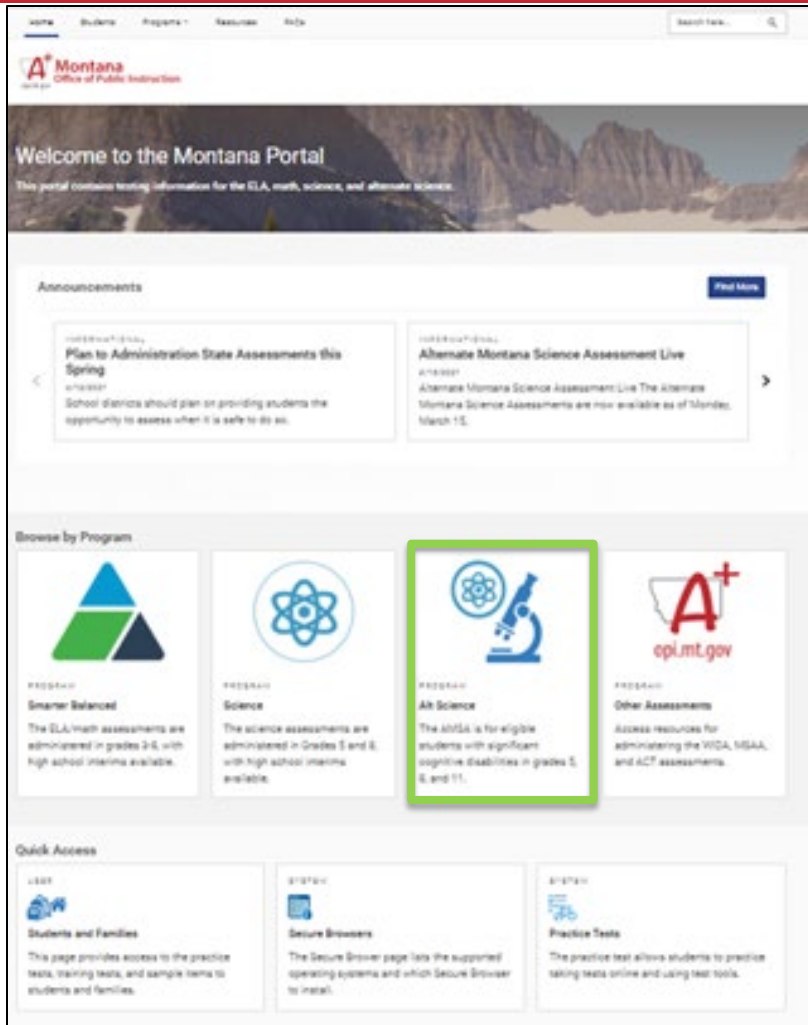
Engagement with general education curriculum AND age-grade peers

S

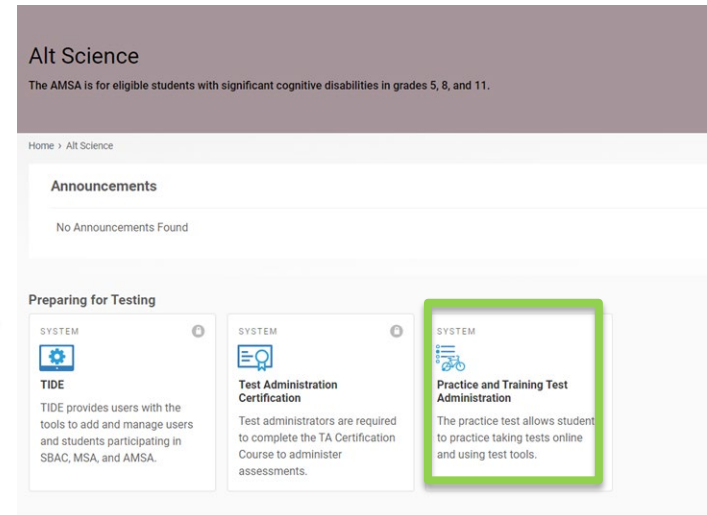
Support

Support at both the state and district level and shared ethic of thinking inclusion first

AMSA - Resources



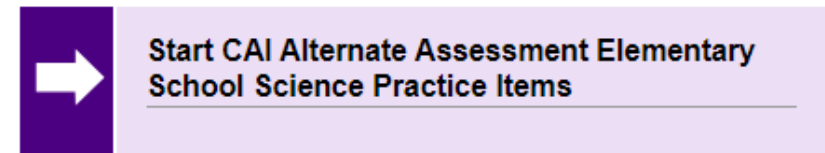
The screenshot shows the Montana Portal homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Students, Programs, Resources, and Help. Below the navigation bar is a banner with the text "Welcome to the Montana Portal" and "This portal contains testing information for the ELA, math, science, and alternate science." Underneath the banner is an "Announcements" section with two cards. The first card is titled "Plan to Administration State Assessments this Spring" and the second is titled "Alternate Montana Science Assessment Live". Below the announcements is a "Browse by Program" section with four cards: "Smarter Balanced", "Science", "Alt Science", and "Other Assessments". The "Alt Science" card is highlighted with a green border. At the bottom is a "Quick Access" section with three cards: "Students and Families", "Secure Browsers", and "Practice Tests".

The screenshot shows the "Alt Science" page. At the top, there is a header with the text "Alt Science" and "The AMSA is for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8, and 11." Below the header is a navigation bar with the text "Home > Alt Science". Underneath the navigation bar is an "Announcements" section with the text "No Announcements Found". Below the announcements is a "Preparing for Testing" section with three cards: "TIDE", "Test Administration Certification", and "Practice and Training Test Administration". The "Practice and Training Test Administration" card is highlighted with a green border.



Alternate Assessment Science



A purple button with a white arrow pointing right and the text "Start CAI Alternate Assessment Elementary School Science Practice Items".



Montana

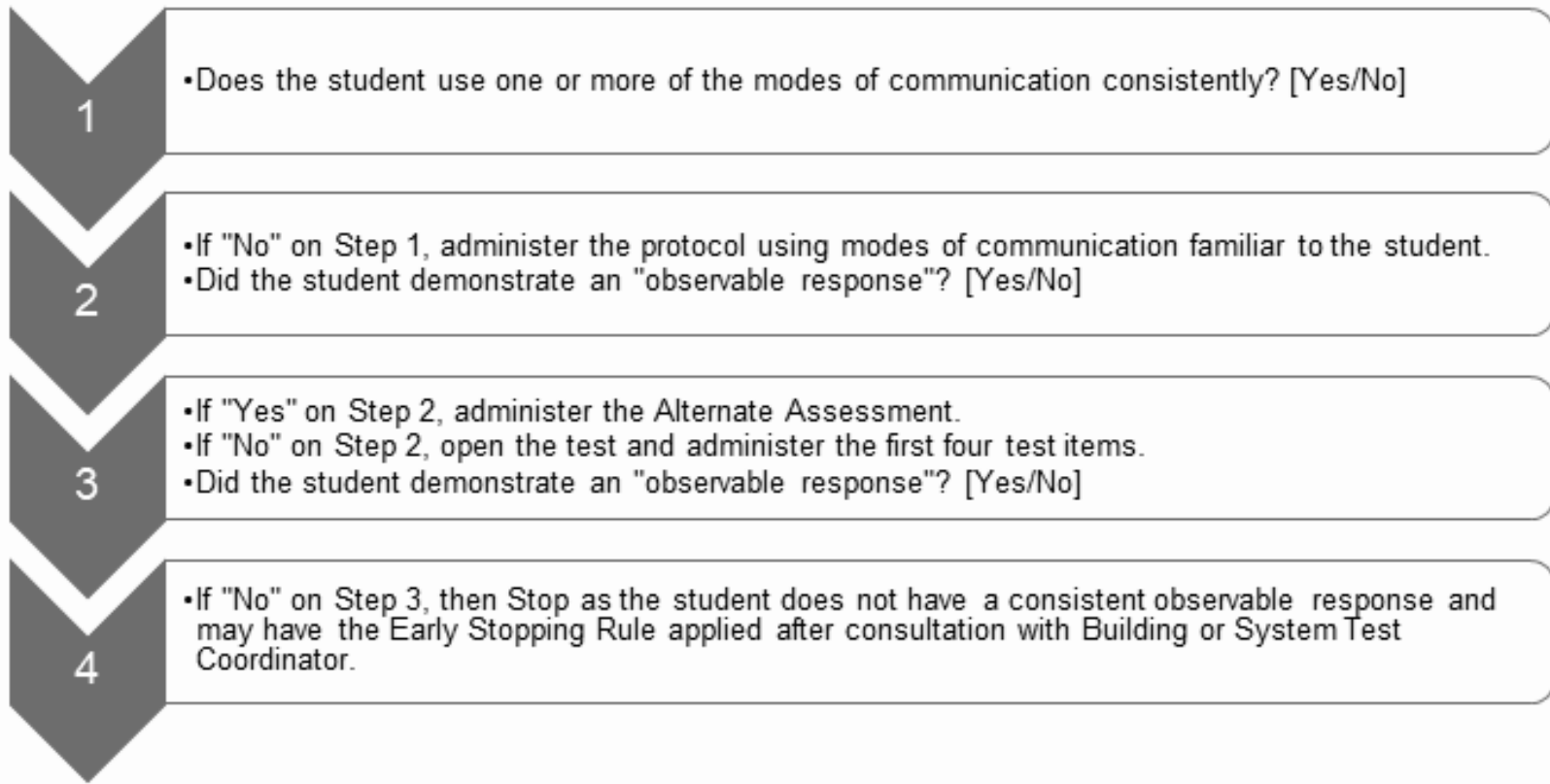
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Section 4: Learning Lab

Early Stopping Rule: Use & Application

Alternate Assessment
Eligibility Guidelines

Student Response Protocol





ESR Reminders

- The lack of an observable response mode is the only reason the Early Stepping Rule (ESR) can be applied.
- The Early Stopping Rule cannot be applied based on a student's behavior, stamina, knowledge of the content, frustration level, or refusal to participate in the test.

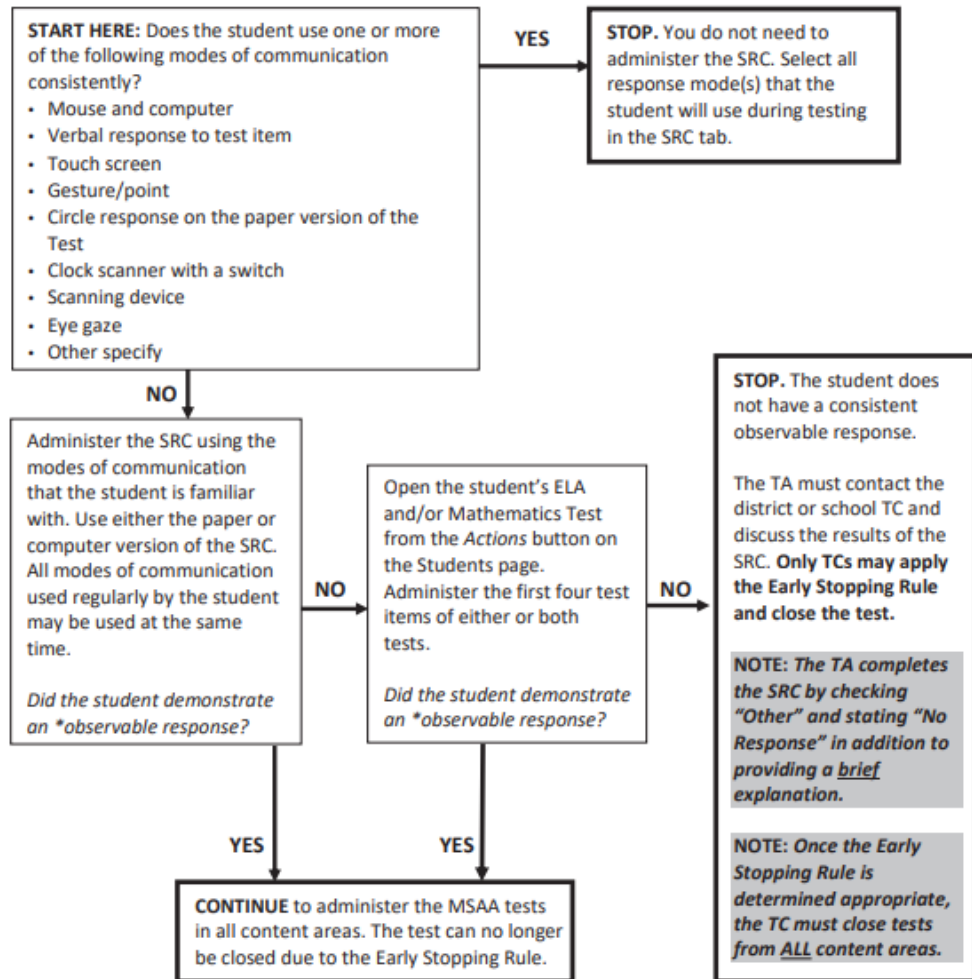


MontCAS Policies
and Procedures for
Participation in State
Assessments

MCAA - Process

The Student Response Check (SRC) Flowchart:

When to Apply the ESR





MSAA - Process


The Early Stopping Rule **cannot** be applied with the following conditions:

- If the student responds to one of the first four items or if the student provides a response in any other content areas,
- If the test status for all content is not started, or
- If any other items are administered after the first four.

MSAA - Process

Note: By reviewing the two criteria listed and checking the box, the STC confirms that the Student Response Check was conducted correctly.

If the SRC was not conducted correctly and the Early Stopping Rule is applied incorrectly, this is considered a Test Irregularity and must be reported in the MontCAS Application.

 **Attention: This action can not be undone**

Are you sure you want to close this test?*

Test:
OP ELA Gr04

Student:
Test qa

Reason:
Early Stopping Rule

confirm that the student

1. did not provide an Observable Response to respond during the administration of the Student Response Check.
2. was administered the first four (4) items of the test and did not provide an answer to any test item.

I understand that applying the Early Stopping Rule cannot be undone and that misapplication of the Early Stopping Rule may result in the invalidation of the student's test.



AMSA - Process


Early Stopping Rule (ESR) for AMSA:

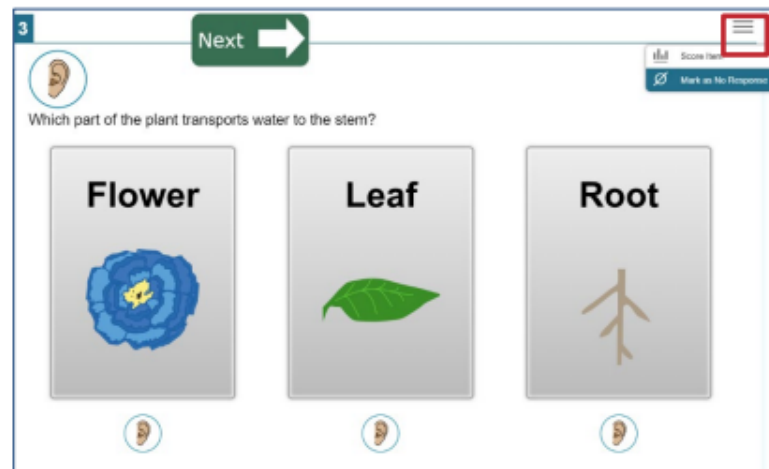
The ESR will be instituted if:

1. No visible response during the SRC
2. No response on the first 4 test items
3. “No Response” option selected by TA for first 4 test items
4. **TA confirms student was provided with appropriate communication, accessibility supports, and given sufficient response time**

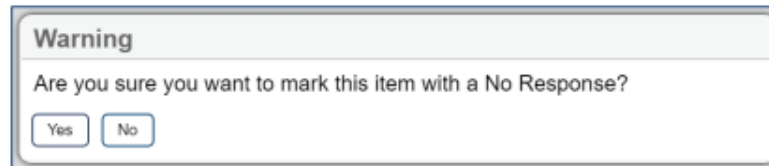
AMSA - Process

To mark No Response during:


- Open the context menu by clicking the context menu  or by right-clicking.



- A warning Tab will open, select **Yes**.



- After the first 4 scorable items are administered, the TA must click the SAVE button on the 4th scorable item in the Test Delivery System.

- The End Test button  will appear. The TA can then end and submit the test.

Questions?

We are here to help. Contact us.

OPI Assessment Help Desk

Phone: 1.844.867.2569

E-mail: OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov