

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Test Coordinators

FROM: Steven L. Paine *slp*
State Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (*APTA*)

DATE: April 4, 2008

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (*APTA*) this spring. *APTA* is aligned with the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards, which are linked to the Content and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts and Science.

The testing window for *APTA* is April 28 - May 11, 2008. All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10 will participate in *APTA* in mathematics and reading/language arts and in science in grade 4, 6, and 11 at the grade level in which they are enrolled. Students taking *APTA* must meet the participation guidelines as set forth in the West Virginia *Measures of Academic Progress*.

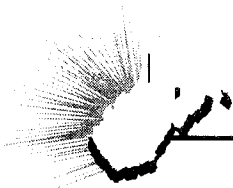
A parent brochure, *West Virginia Educational Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA)* is provided with this mailing for each student in your county. The parent brochure describes the assessment and explains how the test results are used to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. For your convenience, the enclosed letter may be used with the parent brochure to introduce *APTA*.

I sincerely wish you a very successful administration of *the Alternate Performance Task Assessment*. If you have questions with regard to assessment issues, please feel free to contact the Office Assessment and Accountability at (304) 558-2546.

SP/BJ:tm

Enclosure

c: County Superintendents



April 2008

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (*APTA*) this spring. *APTA* is aligned with the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards in the content areas of mathematics, reading/language arts and science.

The testing window for *APTA* is April 28 - May 11, 2008. All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10 will participate in *APTA* in mathematics and reading/language arts and in science in grade 4, 6, and 11 at the grade level in which they are enrolled. Students taking *APTA* must meet the participation guidelines as set forth in the West Virginia *Measures of Academic Progress*.

In order to prepare students for this annual assessment, the Office of Assessment and Accountability has designed a brochure for parents entitled *West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (ATPA)* as an informational tool. This brochure describes the *APTA* assessment, the Performance Level Descriptors and the use of test results to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards in mathematics, reading/language arts and science. This brochure is designed to be a concise, useful guide for understanding *APTA* components as you prepare your child for participation this year.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child/children to perform to his/her best ability during the *APTA* this spring. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

SP/BJ:tm