


M E M O R A N D U M

TO: County Test Coordinators

FROM: Steven L. Paine 
State Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA)

DATE: April 3, 2009

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA) April 27 – May 8, 2009. APTA is aligned with the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards, which are linked to the Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 11 who meet the participation criteria will participate in APTA at the grade level in which they are enrolled. APTA will be given in grades 3-8 and 11 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics and in grades 4, 6, and 11 in Science. Students taking APTA must meet the participation guidelines as set forth in the *Students with Disabilities: Guidelines for Participation in the West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress*.

A parent brochure, *West Virginia Educational Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA)* is provided for each student participating in APTA 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.

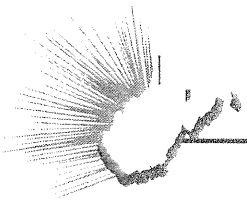
For your convenience, a letter is included as a cover letter for APTA and the parent brochure. If you wish, it is acceptable to draft your own parent letter.

I sincerely wish you a very successful administration of APTA. If you have questions with regard to assessment issues, please feel free to contact Beth Judy, Office of Assessment and Accountability, (304) 558-2546/bjudy@access.k12.wv.us.

SP/BJ:mm

Enclosures

cc: County Superintendents



April, 2009

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA) on April 27 - May 8, 2009. APTA is aligned with the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards in the content areas of Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 11 who meet the participation criteria will participate in APTA at the grade level in which they are enrolled. APTA will be given in grades 3-8 and 11 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics and in grades 4, 6, and 11 in Science. Students taking APTA must meet the participation guidelines as set forth in the *Students with Disabilities: Guidelines for Participation 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 (APTA)*" 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 Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. The brochure is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the APTA components.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the county test coordinator at your county's central office.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools