

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Test Coordinators

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

SUBJECT: West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA)

DATE: March 1, 2010

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA) April 26 – May 7, 2010. 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 set forth in the *Students with Disabilities: Guidelines for Participation in the West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress* will participate in APTA at the grade level in which they are enrolled. APTA is given in grades 3-8 and 11 in reading/language arts and mathematics and in grades 4, 6, and 11 in science.

In order to prepare students for this annual assessment, the Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research 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 reading/language arts, mathematics and science. The brochure is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the APTA components.

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

I sincerely wish you a very successful administration of APTA. If you have questions regarding assessment issues, please feel free to contact Melissa Gholson, Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research, (304) 558-2546, or mgholson@access.k12.wv.us.

SP/mg:mm

Enclosures

cc: County Superintendents

April, 2010

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

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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