


**MEMORANDUM**

TO: County Test Coordinators

FROM: Jan Barth, Executive Director   
Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research

SUBJECT: APTA Parent Letter

DATE: August 6, 2009

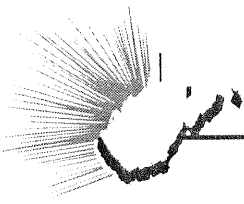
The enclosed parent letter from Dr. Steven Paine provides notification of student performance and participation in the May 2009 Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA), a component of the West Virginia Measures of Academic Program (WV-MAP). Also enclosed is an Informational Sheet: Descriptions of APTA Tests.

APTA is an assessment that measures student achievement of content and skills identified within the West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards as per the IEP. Students must be taught by the alternate academic achievement standards to be eligible to take APTA.

The Dr. Paine letter/Informational Sheet is to be sent home along with each child's APTA Student Report. Please feel free to make as many copies as needed. If you need further information, please contact Melissa Gholson, Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research at (304) 558-2546.

JB:mm

Enclosures:  
Parent Letter  
Informational Sheet



## West Virginia

Department of Education

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August 6, 2009

Dear Parent:

In May 2009, your child took part in the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA), as a component of the West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress (WV-MAP). APTA is an assessment that measures student achievement of content and skills identified within the West Virginia Alternate Academic Achievement Standards.

The APTA Student Report is provided to give you a better understanding of your child's performance on APTA. Working with your child's teacher and school, you can use this information to build on strengths that your child possesses and work on skills where improvement is needed.

The test results are not a part of the school's grading system and will not appear on your child's report card. However, APTA scores do become a part of each student's permanent record.

The attached *Informational Sheet* outlines descriptions of each test. If you have questions about these results or if you need further information, please contact your child's school.

The West Virginia Department of Education is dedicated to the academic success of each student in West Virginia. Thank you for your efforts and support in the education of your child.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools

SP/JB/MG:mm

Attachment

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## INFORMATIONAL SHEET

### DESCRIPTIONS OF APTA TESTS

**APTA** is a test of West Virginia's Alternate Academic Achievement Standards in the areas of reading/language arts and mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 11, and science, grades 4, 6 and 11. The following tests are composed of questions that measure some of the knowledge and skills learned by students in and outside of school. The tests do not measure everything that is or should be taught and learned by students.

- **Reading/Language Arts Test** measures vocabulary and reading comprehension skills for gaining information, performing tasks and reading for literary experience. Additionally, the test measures writing skills to include language mechanics, language expression and listening skills, to include communicating in different ways and for different purposes.
- **Mathematics Test** measures conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge, problem solving and mathematical skills in the areas of number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement and data analysis and probability.
- **Science Test** measures conceptual understanding, scientific investigation and practical reasoning in the following areas: nature of science, content of science and application of science.