



May 2006

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (*APTA*) in May 2006. *APTA* is aligned with the West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the content areas Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts.

As per your child's IEP, he/she will be administered the *APTA* in place of WESTEST. Your child's score will be based on West Virginia Extended Academic Content Standards/Objectives/Descriptors as measured by *APTA*.

The testing window for *APTA* is May 1-12, 2006. All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10 who meet the guidelines for this assessment will participate in *APTA* at the grade level in which they are enrolled for the current school year.

In order to prepare students for this annual assessment, the Office of Student Assessment Services has designed a brochure for parents entitled *West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA)* as an informational tool. This brochure describes the *APTA* 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 and Reading/Language Arts. The brochure is designed to 1) be a useful guide for understanding the *APTA* components and 2) provide information on ways to support your child during the testing process.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child/children during the *APTA* this spring. 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