

PARTICIPATION IN ASSESSMENTS

I. STATE POLICY

The State of Arkansas, through statute and regulations promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Education, has policies and procedures in affect which provide that -

- A.** Children with disabilities are included in general State and district-wide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations and modification in administration, if necessary. [See Attachment 2 - Statutes; Attachment 1, Section 23.00, "Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP)."]
- B.** Consistent with the requirements at 34 CFR 300.138, the Arkansas Department of Education -
 - 1.** Has developed guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments, for those children who cannot participate in State and district-wide assessment programs.
 - 2.** Has developed an alternate assessment system consisting of a portfolio assessment methodology, in accordance with **1** above, which has been field-tested during the spring semester of the 1999-2000 school year; and
 - 3.** Will, beginning not later than July 1, 2000, implement statewide the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment System referred to in **2** above. (See Attachment 1, Section 23.05, "Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP).")

In implementing the requirements of 34 CFR 300.138, the Arkansas Department of Education shall make available to the public, and report to the public with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on the assessment of nondisabled children, the following information -

- A.** The number of children with disabilities participating –
 - 1.** In regular assessments; and
 - 2.** In alternate assessments.
- B.** The performance results of the children described in **A** of this section if doing so would be statistically sound and would not result in the disclosure of performance results identifiable to individual children –
 - 1.** On regular assessments (beginning not later than July 1, 1998); and
 - 2.** On alternate assessments (not later than July 1, 2000).

- C.** Reports to the public under **A** of this section must include –
 - 1.** Aggregated data that include the performance of children with disabilities together with all other children; and
 - 2.** Disaggregated data on the performance of children with disabilities.
- D.** Data relating to the performance of children described under **A** of this section must be disaggregated –
 - 1.** For assessments conducted after July 1, 1998; and
 - 2.** For assessments conducted before July 1, 1998, if the State is required to disaggregate the data prior to July 1, 1998.

With regard to the reporting requirements presented in items **A – D** above, since 1998 the Arkansas Department of Education has included in its reports to the general public the performance results for students with disabilities included in statewide assessments (norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessments), with and without accommodations. The performance results of these students have also been included in the Biennial Performance Report provided to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, a "Report Card" provided for in State statute will be made public for each public education agency in the state (i.e., public school district, and Arkansas Schools for the Deaf and Blind), including each school (building). The performance of all students, inclusive of students with disabilities, on state and district-wide assessments administered within the district will be reported.