



Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities: An Educator's Guide

Harold L. Kleinert Ed.D., Jacqueline Kearns Ed.D.

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To support K–12 students with significant disabilities and get an accurate picture of their skills and knowledge, schools need to implement effective alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS). This is the guidebook every team should have—not only to develop successful AA-AAS linked with grade-level content standards, but also to ensure the kind of quality instruction that leads to higher achievement.

The follow-up to Kleinert and Kearns's pioneering *Alternate Assessment*, this cutting-edge book synthesizes current research on AA-AAS and gives education professionals strategies for implementing assessments and improving instruction. With a strong focus on practical classroom application, the expert authors show readers how to

- understand the key principles of alternate assessment, including validity, technical quality, and content standards
- align instruction with assessment across major academic content areas: reading, math, science, and social studies
- implement a clear four-step process to improve student access to the general curriculum
- use multiple measures to ensure that assessments accurately reflect students' abilities
- link IEPs with grade-level content standards
- teach relevant functional and life skills within grade level content
- build students' communicative competence to improve their educational outcomes
- educate families about the purpose and content of alternate assessments
- decode the federal mandates for alternate assessments and the most recent regulations
- see how alternate assessment works in the context of a school's broader accountability system

To help educators ensure a high-quality inclusive education for students with disabilities, the authors include detailed, step-by-step examples of modified lessons in math, reading, science, and social studies. Readers will see how instruction and assessment can be adapted for students of all ages with a wide range of abilities and communication needs.

The definitive resource on AA-AAS—and an essential supplementary text for future general and special educators—this book will make alternate assessment meaningful and lead the way to higher academic achievement for students with significant disabilities.

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