

# SECTION 8: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

## STUDENT GUIDELINES

### Gifted Students

Gifted students are to be assessed with the general assessment at the grade level in which they are enrolled.

### Students with a 504 Plan

Students with a 504 plan are to be assessed with the general assessment. Accommodations contained in their plan should be applied when taking the test. Allowable accommodations on state assessments can be found on page 17.

### Students with Disabilities with an IEP

Students who have been identified as having a disability and who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will participate in state assessments. **All students are expected to be tested.** Students with an IEP may be tested using one of the following assessment options:

- General assessment with accommodations as appropriate
- KAMM (Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures) with accommodations as appropriate
- Kansas Alternate Assessment

It is the responsibility of the IEP team to determine which assessment is appropriate for the individual student. Guidance for IEP teams on determining the appropriate assessment for a student can be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2371>

## TEST TYPES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

### KAMM Information

The KAMM (Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures) is a state assessment with modified achievement standards based on grade level content standards. The current KAMM format is a modified version of the general assessment consisting of multiple-choice items. More information on the KAMM, including specific content indicators to be assessed, can be found at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2371>

### Alternate Assessment Information

The Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) consists of a collection of data (i.e. data folio) of an individual student's performance of skills and content outlined in the Kansas Extended Standards. For each content area, the IEP team decides on the five most appropriate extended indicators (at least one from each Extended Standard) that reflect the student's specially designed instruction. The process for selection of indicators, data collection, and scoring can be found in the KS Alternate Assessment Teachers Guide. The Teachers Guide and Extended Standards can be found at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2384>.

### Contact Information

District coordinators may contact Deb Matthews at 785.296.3743 with questions about the KAMM or Kansas Alternate Assessment.

## **KAMM and Alternate Assessment Participation**

As many eligible students as appropriate may participate in either the KAMM or alternate assessments. There is no limitation on participation in any assessment type for students with IEPs.

All students who take the KAMM and alternate assessment will count toward participation. A federal cap has been established on the number of students that can be counted as proficient when calculating AYP. For KAMM, the cap is 2% of the district's testing pool. For alternate assessments, the cap is 1% of the district's testing pool. In cases where a district exceeds these federal caps, the percent of students exceeding the cap will be reclassified as not proficient when calculating AYP.

If less than 1% of district students are proficient on the alternate assessment, proficient scores on KAMM can be included to fill out the 1% (in addition to the 2% normally allowed for the KAMM). The reverse is not allowable.

## **Accommodations**

Guidance on accommodations can be found in the Kansas State Department of Education Accommodations Manual on the KSDE website. The manual includes information on the use of accommodations in instruction and classroom assessments as well as information on allowable accommodations on state assessments.

Information about accommodations and guidelines for the read-aloud accommodation are found on the assessment page at the KSDE website (<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=420>).

**For a list of accommodation codes to be used with the online student editor at CETE, refer to page 17.**