

U. S. Department of Education New Regulations/Policy Guidance

Newly released non-regulatory guidance regarding alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards:

See USDE Guidance *Alternate Achievement Standards for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities Non-Regulatory Guidance* (August 2005) at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html#guidance>.

Alternatives and flexibility for states regarding students with disabilities tested on alternative assessments:

Press Release issued May 10, 2005

Spellings Announces New Special Education Guidelines, Details Workable, "Common-Sense" Policy to Help States Implement No Child Left Behind, <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05102005.html>

Press Release issued April 7, 2005

Secretary Spellings Announces More Workable, "Common Sense" Approach To Implement No Child Left Behind Law, <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/04/04072005.html>

USDE Policy Guidance Issued prior to 2005

Cap on students counted as proficient on alternative assessments:

Referred to as "the 1% Cap"

Issued by the USDE on December 9, 2003

See USDE Final Regulations on <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/finrule/2003-4.html>, second link "Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged"

Targeted Assistance School option:

Letter of guidance issued to the North Carolina chief school officer on February 4, 2004

See <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/stateletters/asaypnc.html?exp=0>

English Language Learners:

Policy change announced February 19, 2004

See press release on <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/02/02192004.html>

Average participation rate across years and significant medical emergencies:

Policy change announced March 29, 2004

See press release on <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03292004.html>