



Delaware

Comprehensive Assessment System – Alt1



DCAS-Alt1 Fact Sheet

The alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities has undergone significant changes. The current alternate assessment (Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment – DAPA) is being replaced with the DCAS-Alt1 (Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System – Alternate Assessment). This is necessary in order to align the alternate assessment to the new DCAS which is used for 99% of students in the state assessment system. The DCAS-Alt1 must meet the technical requirements evaluated through the US Dept. of Education’s Peer Review Process. Some key features of the DCAS-Alt1 are:

- The DCAS-Alt1 is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they relate to the Common Core Standards Extensions
- The scores assess what students know, understand, and can do
- Students respond to task/items or prompts during a one-on-one testing situation
- The content of the DCAS-Alt1 is aligned to the same grades that are used for the DCAS (Reading and Mathematics (grades 3-10) are given in the fall and spring; Reading (grade 2), Science and Social Studies are given in the spring)
- The assessment will assist educators in building and maintaining instruction aligned with academic expectations

Below you will find a chart which elaborates the main differences between the DAPA and the DCAS-Alt1.

DAPA (Current Alternate Assessment)	DCAS-Alt1 (New Alternate Assessment)
Vendor – Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware	Vendor – American Institutes for Research
Developed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot meaningfully participate in the state’s general assessment	Developed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot meaningfully participate in the state’s general assessment
The IEP team determines if a student will participate in the DAPA	The IEP team determines if a student will participate in the DCAS-Alt1
Grades 2 -10	Grades 2 -10
English Language Arts (Read/Writing), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies	Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
Educators can use Grade Level Expectations from any grade from the Delaware Recommended Curriculum	Items are based on the Delaware Extensions to the Common Core Standards (Developed in grade bands K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-10)
Format - Portfolio that includes a variety of information such as teacher data sheets, student work and letter(s) from family	Format - Test materials available in print form through a test booklet with a detailed script (and scores recorded in a web-based system)
Students participate through any communicative modality	Students respond through any communicative modality
Assessed across four dimensions: activity, self-determination, settings, and interactions	Performance tasks/items that test a discrete academic skill or embedded skills
Scoring is a program evaluation and is determined by the opportunities for independence, multiple settings and interactions that are provided	Scoring based upon accuracy of response and is a measure of what the student knows, understands, and can do
Assessment scores used for purposes of state/district/school accountability (AYP)	Shows growth from the fall to the spring (Reading and Mathematics) and the spring assessment used for state/district/school accountability (AYP)

Sample items on second page.

ELA Task 3:

At the Library: Item 1

Setup

hears him 	calls him 	asks a friend
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Script

Say: *We're going to read a story about people in a library.*

Do: Read the story.

Say: *Tell (show) me how the sister found her brother: she hears him (indicate the hear card), calls him (indicate the call card), or asks a friend (indicate the friend card)?*

TRY 1

	Record 2	Next Item
	Remove Incorrect Student Response	TRY 2
	Remove	TRY 2

TRY 2 *Tell (show) me how the sister found her brother: (indicate each remaining option)?*

	Record 1	Next Item
	Record 0	Next Item
	Record NR	Next Item

Mathematics Task 1:

Identify Numbers and Shapes: Item 2

Setup

	2
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Script

Say: *Tell (show) me which is a triangle: this (indicate the triangle card) or this (indicate the 2 card)?*

TRY 1

	Record 1	Next Item
	Record 0	Next Item
	Record NR	Next Item