

# Delaware Comprehension Assessment System

## DCAS-Alt1

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q Does my child have to be assessed?

**A** Yes, federal regulations require that all students be included in state and district-wide assessments. Each year parents/guardians, along with the other members of the IEP team, decide whether a student will participate in the general assessment (DCAS) or the alternate assessment (DCAS-Alt1) based on their individual student profile.

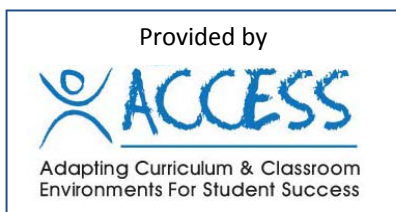
#### Q How do IEP teams know which assessment is most appropriate?

**A** The alternate assessment is designed for students with the most significant intellectual disabilities who cannot meaningfully participate in the general assessment even with accommodations. IEP teams should consider the needs of the student, the focus of his/her instruction, and the requirements of each assessment method. Decisions should not be based on the student's disability, school program or performance on the general assessment.

It may be helpful to review the *Guidelines for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency* and the *DCAS-Alt1 Participation Guidelines* prior to the IEP meeting.

#### Q What is the purpose of DCAS-Alt1?

**A** The purpose is to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they relate to the Delaware Content Standards Grade Band Extensions (GBEs). In addition, the assessment will assist educators in building and maintaining instruction aligned with academic expectations.



#### Q What areas of instruction will be assessed?

**A** Reading and Mathematics will be assessed twice a year (fall and spring) for students in grades 3 through 10. Second graders will only be assessed in the spring.

Science (grades 5, 8, 10) and Social Studies (grades 4, 7) will be assessed once in the spring.

#### Q How will students be assessed?

**A** Students respond to test items during a one-on-one testing situation using their mode of communication (e.g., oral response, response card, eye gaze, pointing, sign language, augmentative communication device). Two types of scripted test items are used: engagement (teacher rates the students level of involvement) or scaffolded (multiple opportunities to answer). *Refer to second page for test items.*

#### Q When will I find out how my child performed on the assessment?

**A** You will receive a score report after the spring testing is complete that will detail your child's performance.

#### Q What happens if my child does not perform well on the assessment?

**A** There are no consequences for students who do not meet the standard on the alternate assessment. Your child's teacher will continue to work with your student to provide access to the general education curriculum and develop skills.

#### For additional information contact:

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# Sample DCAS-Alt1 Test Items

**LA Task 1:**  
Lizard Spying: Item 2

**Setup**



toy lizard



**Script**

Say: *We just read a poem about a lizard. Let's touch (hold) this toy lizard.*

Do: Assist the student if necessary in touching or holding the toy lizard while observing his or her engagement with it. Then, record a score on the basis of the rubric and go to the next item.

**Record 4 points:**  
Student demonstrates **sustained involvement** in the activity; for example, he or she may

- consistently attend to teacher's communication (verbal or signed) and actions;
- participate with intention in action involving the objects as modeled;
- imitate (or try to imitate) action involving the objects as objects;
- shift body movement/eye gaze appropriately as focal point of demonstration changes;
- make an appropriate vocalization (e.g., an associated sound) in response to objects; and/or
- demonstrate anticipation or prediction of next words and/or actions.

**Record 3 points:**  
Student demonstrates **generally maintained involvement** in the activity; for example, he or she may

- generally attend (with infrequent lapses) to teacher's communication (verbal or signed) and actions;
- touch or point to object(s) as described;
- sustain gaze toward object(s) during manipulation by teacher;
- vocalize to show acknowledgment of object(s) during manipulation/exploration; and/or
- willingly permit (participate in) hand-over-hand exploration of object(s).

**Record 2 points:**  
Student demonstrates **intermittent/irregular involvement** in the activity; for example, he or she may

- intermittently attend to teacher's communication (verbal or signed) and actions;
- move toward/reach for the object(s) presented;
- touch the object(s) presented; and/or
- look at the object(s) presented, shifting gaze at least sometimes as appropriate.


**Record 1 point:**  
Student demonstrates **fleeting awareness** of, but little/no involvement in, the activity taking place; for example, he or she may

- only fleetingly attend to teacher's communication (verbal or signed) and actions;
- exhibit a momentary change in movement, vocalization, and/or respiration in response to teacher and/or object(s);
- open or move eyes toward teacher and/or object(s); and/or
- permit guided touch/grasp of object as initially presented.

**Record NR:**  
Student does not demonstrate any awareness of the object(s) or involvement in the activity taking place or may refuse to engage in the activity at any level.

**Mathematics Task 1:**  
Identify Numbers and Shapes: Item 2

**Setup**



**Script**

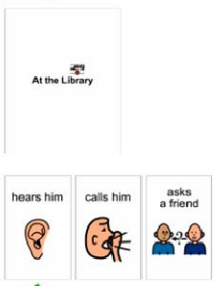
Say: *Tell (show) me which is a triangle: this (indicate the triangle card) or this (indicate the 2 card)?*

**TRY 1**

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

**ELA Task 3:**  
At the Library: Item 1

**Setup**



**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