

Instruction

Research: Testing

Testing Program

A plan of system-wide testing in addition to mandated statewide assessments, shall be developed and implemented as one indication of the success and quality of EASTCONN's total educational program. In the case of individual students, standardized achievement tests, in combination with other criteria, can provide an indication of student achievement. When appropriate, students may also be tested for mental ability, aptitude and interest.

The purposes of the Agency-wide testing program are to facilitate and provide information for the following:

1. ***Student Achievement*** - To produce information about relative student achievement so that parents/guardians, students and teachers have a baseline against which to monitor academic progress. Within the limitations of group testing instruments, the information should be useful to serve as a validation device for other measures of student progress.
2. ***Student Counseling*** - To serve as a tool in the counseling and guidance of students for further direction and for specific academic placement.
3. ***Instructional Change*** - To provide data which will assist in the preparation of recommendations for instructional program changes to:
 - a. Help teachers with instructional decisions, plans and changes regarding classroom objectives and program implementation;
 - b. Help the professional staff formulate and recommend instructional policy; and
 - c. Help the EASTCONN Board of Directors adopt instructional policies.
4. ***Agency Assessment*** - To provide additional indicators of the progress of the agency toward established goals.

The testing program is an integral part of EASTCONN's needs assessment and evaluation programs. The program should be developed primarily for furnishing needed information to decision makers, including the EASTCONN Board of Directors, administrators, teachers, parents/guardians and students.

The needs of these various groups shall be clearly identified, and the testing program shall be limited to obtaining that information which is needed and useful.

In planning, every effort will be made to see that testing contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it. Efforts shall be made to incorporate necessary culture-free and culture-fair tests to assure reasonably accurate measurements.

EASTCONN shall not discriminate in the methods, practices and materials used for testing, evaluating and counseling students on the basis of sex, race, national origin, creed, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Parents shall be notified prior to any individual student testing, beyond that which is part of the regular classroom routine. Parental notification shall include the reason for the testing and an explanation of the test to be used. All such tests results shall be shared with parents.

Staff will receive in-service education in the use of designated tests, confidentiality issues and interpretation of test results.

A periodic review and evaluation of the district's testing program will be conducted.

Test Exclusion:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities for Statewide and District-wide Assessments

EASTCONN will, in all respects, comply with the requirements of the state and federal law with regard to the special education of students with disabilities. The EASTCONN Board of Directors directs the Director of Special Education or designee to, in accordance with state and federal law, develop procedures that indicate how district staff shall determine when a student with a disability eligible for special education and related services under the IDEA shall partake in alternative assessment(s) to particular statewide or agency-wide assessments of student achievement. Such procedures shall include, among other things, a requirement that all decisions for alternative assessments be made by the particular student's planning and placement team.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation and use of test results.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq.(IDEA) 34 C.F.R. §300.320

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