North Dakota's Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines

The criteria for participation in North Dakota's Alternate Assessment requires IEP teams to consider the following questions. IEP teams must select alternate assessment for all content areas assessed (English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science). Students who participate in North Dakota's Alternate Assessments will not participate in the North Dakota State Assessment. Will the most significant cognitive disability impact the student's access to the curriculum and Yes/No require specialized instruction? The student requires a highly specialized educational program with intensive supports and modifications/accommodations for access to the general education curriculum. The student requires daily instruction for core academic standards and functional life skills on a substantially different grade level from that of peers with disabilities. The student requires intensive instructional strategies which may include, but are not limited to, repeated drill/practice in multiple settings, skills taught in substantially smaller steps than peers with frequency prompts, and guidance from adults. AND The student requires information to be obtained primarily through methods other than reading due to limited reading ability. AND The student requires alternate methods to express or share oral or written ideas and information. Will the student's most significant cognitive disability impact the student's post-school outcomes? Yes/No The student's post-secondary outcomes likely require supported or assisted living. The following considerations are not allowed (or acceptable) when determining a student's eligibility to participate in the North Dakota Alternate Assessment-Dynamic Learning Maps: A disability category or label Poor attendance or extended absences Native language/social/cultural or economic difference Expected poor performance on the general education assessment Academic and other services student receives Educational environment or instructional setting Percent of time receiving special education English Learner (EL) status Low reading level/achievement level Anticipated student's disruptive behavior Impact of student scores on accountability system Administrator decision Anticipated emotional duress Need for accommodations (e.g., assistive technology/AAC) to participate in assessment process Visual or auditory disabilities

