



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

August 24, 2015

Secretary Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1510

Re: Alternate Assessment on Modified Academic Achievement Standards (2% Regulation)

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Education Task Force (CCD), we write to thank you for issuing the final Rule to end the use of the Alternate Assessment on Modified Academic Achievement Standards (AA-MAS).

This policy change will go a long way to raising expectations of all students and ensuring that schools are held accountable for providing appropriate services, accommodations and instruction that may be needed to provide the opportunities for students with disabilities to achieve grade-level standards. Multiple research studies and best practice show that most students with disabilities can successfully learn grade-level content and make significant academic progress when they receive systematic, explicit instruction, learning strategies, and other evidence-based services and supports.

In addition, nearly all states have now developed and are administering new high-quality general assessments that are universally designed to include students with disabilities. This has reinforced that the vast majority of students with disabilities do not need to work toward so-called modified achievement standards and can be assessed on the general achievement standards.

Thank you again for finalizing this policy that will ultimately lead to many more students graduating from high school prepared for college and careers.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jones  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
[ljones@nclld.org](mailto:ljones@nclld.org)

Laura Kaloi  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
[lkaloi@wpllc.net](mailto:lkaloi@wpllc.net)

Kim Musheno  
Assoc. of University Centers on Disability  
[kmusheno@aucd.org](mailto:kmusheno@aucd.org)

Katy Neas  
Easter Seals  
[kneas@easterseals.com](mailto:kneas@easterseals.com)

Cindy Smith  
National Association of Councils on  
Developmental Disabilities  
[csmith@nacdd.org](mailto:csmith@nacdd.org)

*The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. For additional information, visit [www.c-c-d.org](http://www.c-c-d.org).*