

Assessment Peer Review: Critical Elements Analysis Chart

To comply with Section 1111(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are required to submit evidence associated with their assessment systems to the United States Department of Education (ED) for peer review.

The peer review process requires cohorts of trained experts to evaluate state-submitted evidence as it relates to a number of established criteria, organized by and divided into [Critical Elements](#) (CEs). Each decision letter issued outlines the CEs for which states must submit additional evidence to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for standards and assessment based on peer review feedback on state-submitted documentation.

The [CE Analysis chart](#), available as an Excel download, allows users to compare feedback received in assessment peer review decision letters across states and/or CEs for which additional documentation was requested. Users can also filter by assessment administered and whether the assessment has substantially or partially met requirements, or, is not directly referenced in the state's decision letter.

The chart was constructed by analyzing the information contained in the [decision letters on each state's final assessment system](#) that have been issued by ED. For each distinct area of a state's assessment system that could have been submitted for peer review, a tab has been created: high school reading/language arts (R/LA) and mathematics (M), grades 3–8 R/LA and M, high school science (S), grades 3–8 S, Alternate Assessments (ALT) for R/LA and M, and ALT S. The decision letters issued indicate if an assessment has either substantially or partially met statutory and regulatory requirements, and this information is also indicated on the chart. Not all assessments are referenced in the decision letters issued to each state.

Each critical element in the spreadsheet indicated as needing additional documentation in order to meet the requirements of ED has been indicated by a green cell containing a green X. Users should reference each state's decision letter to obtain more specific information surrounding the type(s) of additional evidence requested. In some cases, additional evidence was requested with regard to specific subsections of each assessment, for example, R/LA only. These instances have been noted as R/LA only or M only, as the case may be.

Decision letters may also reference a state's entire assessment system with regard to the submission of additional evidence for a particular CE. When this occurs, each assessment in the state's assessment system is indicated as needing to submit additional evidence regardless of whether or not that assessment is referenced in the decision letter for that state.



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