

Advisory On The Use of Revised/Updated Testing Instruments- February, 2012

Effective date: 7/1/2012

This Advisory is to inform psychologists and agencies, including schools that provide psychological assessments to the Department of Developmental Services on behalf of individuals about the Department's policy regarding the use of revised/updated versions of test instruments that may be utilized as part of assessment batteries that are reviewed for eligibility determination purposes. Multiple tests, instruments and scales have been, and are being revised/updated as a matter of professional standards. Rather than create separate advisories for each new version, the Department is releasing one general advisory to apply to all such tests, instruments, and scales.

Updated and revised versions of nationally recognized standardized tests of intelligence and adaptive behavior are periodically released to keep pace with changes in culture, age-related functioning and contemporary knowledge bases and education. Professional and ethical standards of Psychology and Psychological Testing include the clear expectation that psychologists and psychometricians will use the most updated/recent version of any test chosen for inclusion in an assessment battery. As new/updated versions of intelligence tests and adaptive behavior scales have been periodically released, the Department has accepted older versions of these tests for the purposes of eligibility determination for a period of time. The Department believes that a grace period of 18 months after a revision appears is a reasonable amount of time to permit practitioners, agencies, and schools, the opportunity to acquire and learn how to use the new version of the test(s), its materials, and the principles of interpretation. This grace period is also in keeping with the ethical principles established by both the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists.

While the results from previous editions will remain applicable when reviewed as part of historical documentation, it is expected that psychologists and assessment providers, including schools, will utilize the most recent version(s) of the relevant testing instruments when conducting a new assessment. Please note that the release of an updated/revised version of test instrument(s) neither negates the previous results from a previously valid assessment nor does it necessitate a new administration.

However, results from the older version of an instrument will not be accepted as a valid current measure of an individual's functioning post the 18 month grace period post revision release, when they are presented as part of a new assessment battery.

Examples of appropriate measures of intellectual functioning include:

- Wechsler Series of Intelligence Scales IV – preferred DDS measure, excluding the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI) and Wechsler Nonverbal Scale of Ability (WNV)
- Stanford-Binet Scales V

Occasionally, the clinical needs of the applicant may require the use of non-verbal measures of intellectual functioning. The selection of non-verbal instruments must be accompanied by a clinical justification for its usage including instruments such as:

- Leiter International Performance Scale-Revised(Leiter-R)
- Comprehensive Test of Non-Verbal Intelligence (C-Toni, 2)

Examples of appropriate measures of adaptive functioning include:

- Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Second Edition (Vineland II)– preferred DDS measure
- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Revised (ABAS-II)
- Scales of Independent Behavior Revised (SIB-R)
- Comprehensive Test of Adaptive Behavior

Updated or current evaluations of intellectual and adaptive functioning must be based on the most recent version of the particular instrument chosen.

Thank you for your cooperation.