

Assessment Today

How We Got Here and Where We are Going



1990



2016

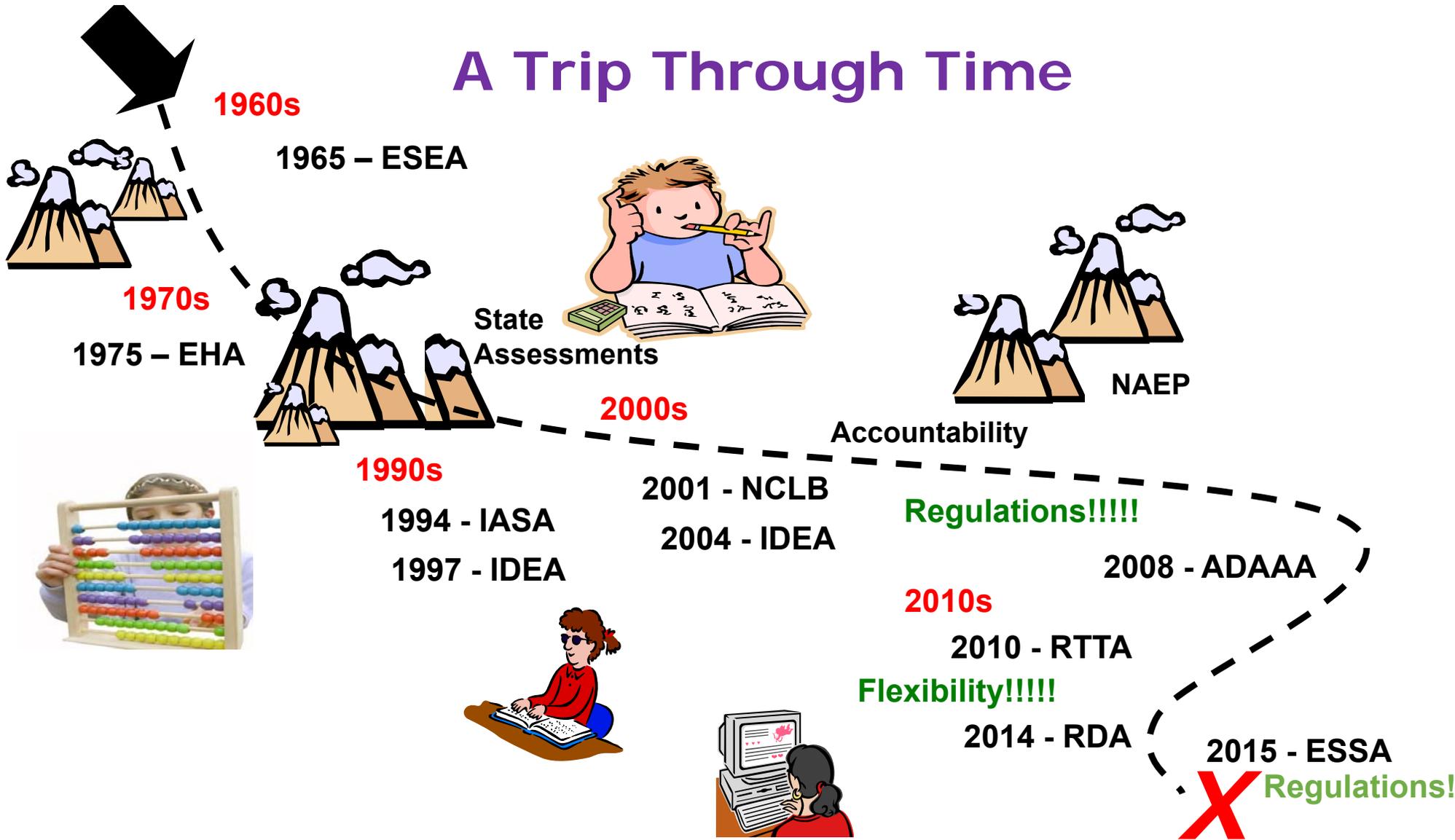
Who am I to Talk about the History of Assessment?

(Martha L. Thurlow)



- Director of the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)
- Collaborator on Dozens of Research Projects on Assessing Students with Disabilities, ELs, and ELs with Disabilities
- Member of Several States' Technical Advisory Committee for Assessment and Accountability and Other Task Forces

A Trip Through Time



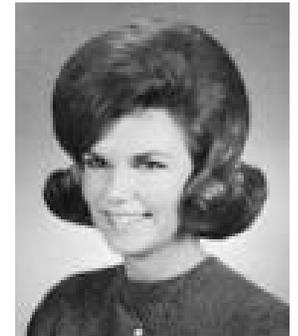
The 1960s!

Average Income: \$5,315

New House: \$12,700

New Car: \$2,600

Postage Stamp: \$0.04



Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) first enacted - 1965



The 1970s!

Average Income: \$9,350

New House: \$23,400

New Car: \$3,900

Postage Stamp: \$0.06



Education of All Handicapped Children Act (EHA) enacted in 1975



The 1980s!

Average Income: \$19,170

New House: \$68,714

New Car: \$7,210

Postage Stamp: \$0.15



Breeding time for standards-based education, with governors meeting at the end of the decade to agree on Goals for all students



Summary: Just 2 ½ Decades Ago (the early 1990s).....

- ▶ Most states did not include students with disabilities in their assessment systems
- ▶ Students with disabilities (all disabilities) were held to different expectations – we worked hard to make sure that they felt good about themselves, but we did not necessarily attend to their academic needs
- ▶ Little thought was given to accommodations that students might need in instruction to access the curriculum, much less how to use universal design principles for instruction and assessment

The 1990s!

Average Income: \$28,970

New House: \$123,000

New Car: \$16,000

Postage Stamp: \$0.25



EHA renamed IDEA in 1990**

ESEA reauthorized as IASA in 1994 – first required participation in state assessments for Title I

IDEA reauthorization in 1997 – first required participation in state assessments and development of alternate assessments

**** NCEO first funded**



The 2000s!

Average Income: \$40,343

New House: \$134,150

New Car: \$24,750

Postage Stamp: \$0.33



ESEA reauthorized as NCLB in 2001 (signed in 2002) – real accountability!

IDEA reauthorized in 2004 to confirm inclusion in accountability (plus new requirement to count students using accommodations)

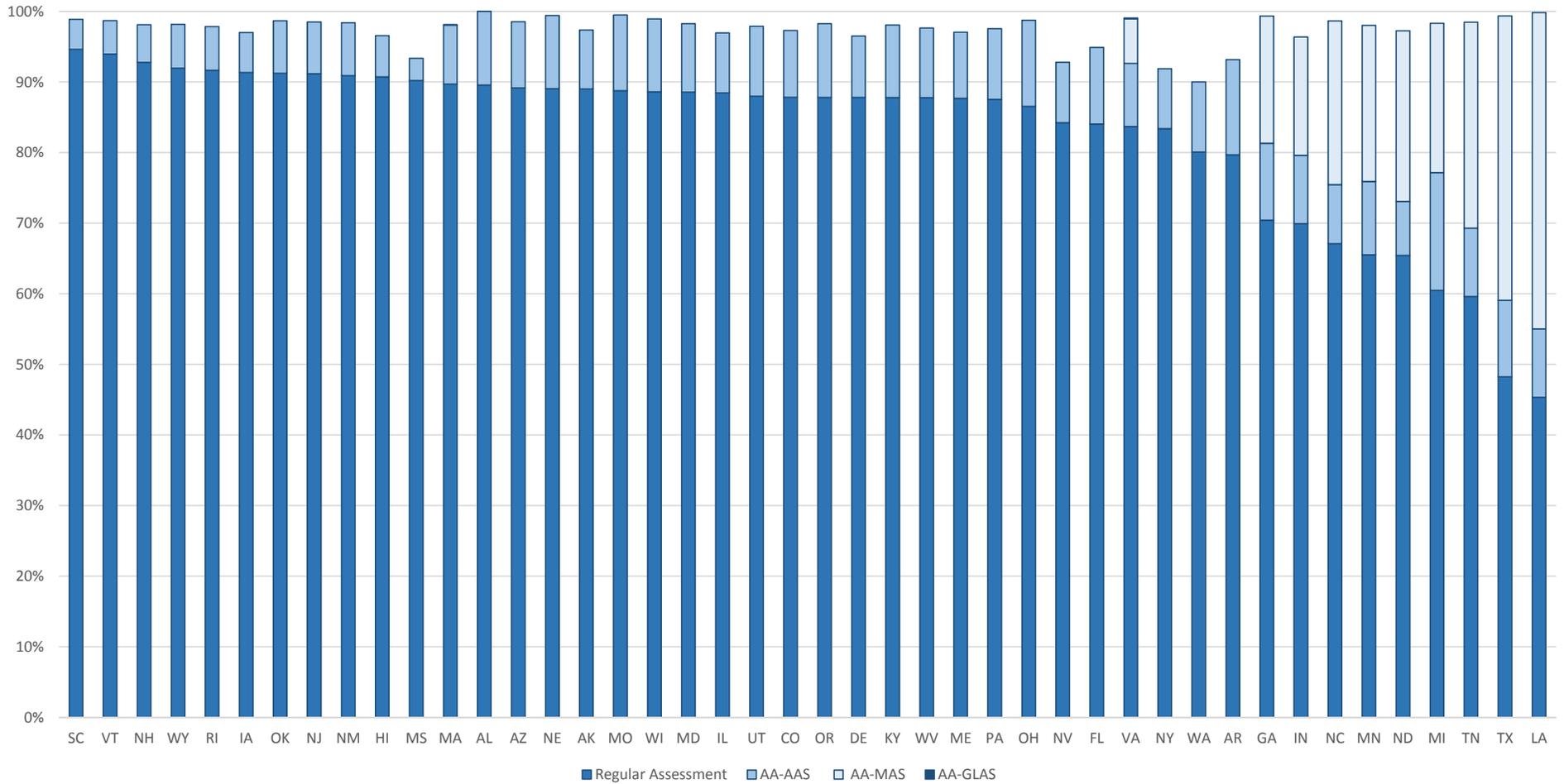
ADA reauthorized in 2008 – expanding coverage



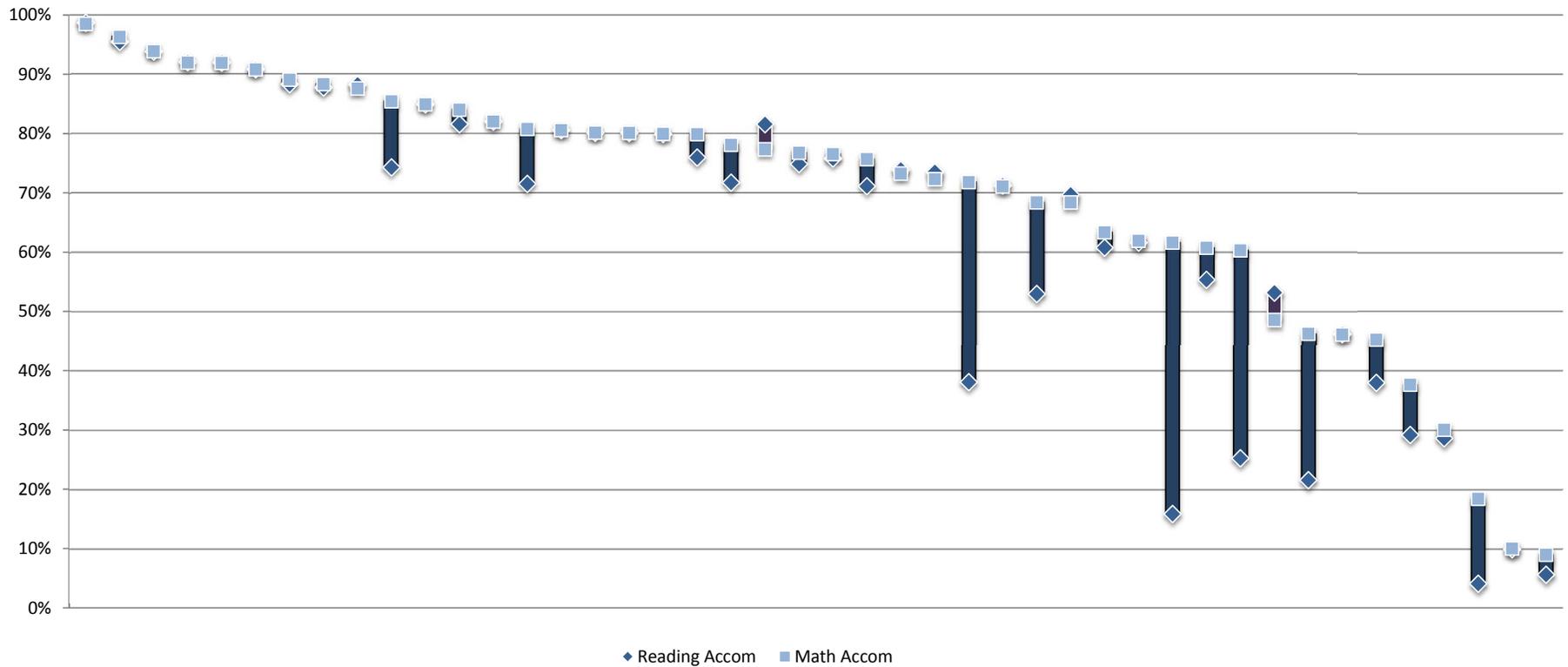
So Where Are We “Now”?

- Participation in Assessments
- Accommodations Use in Regular Assessments
- Performance on Assessments
- Alternate Assessments
- Design of Assessments

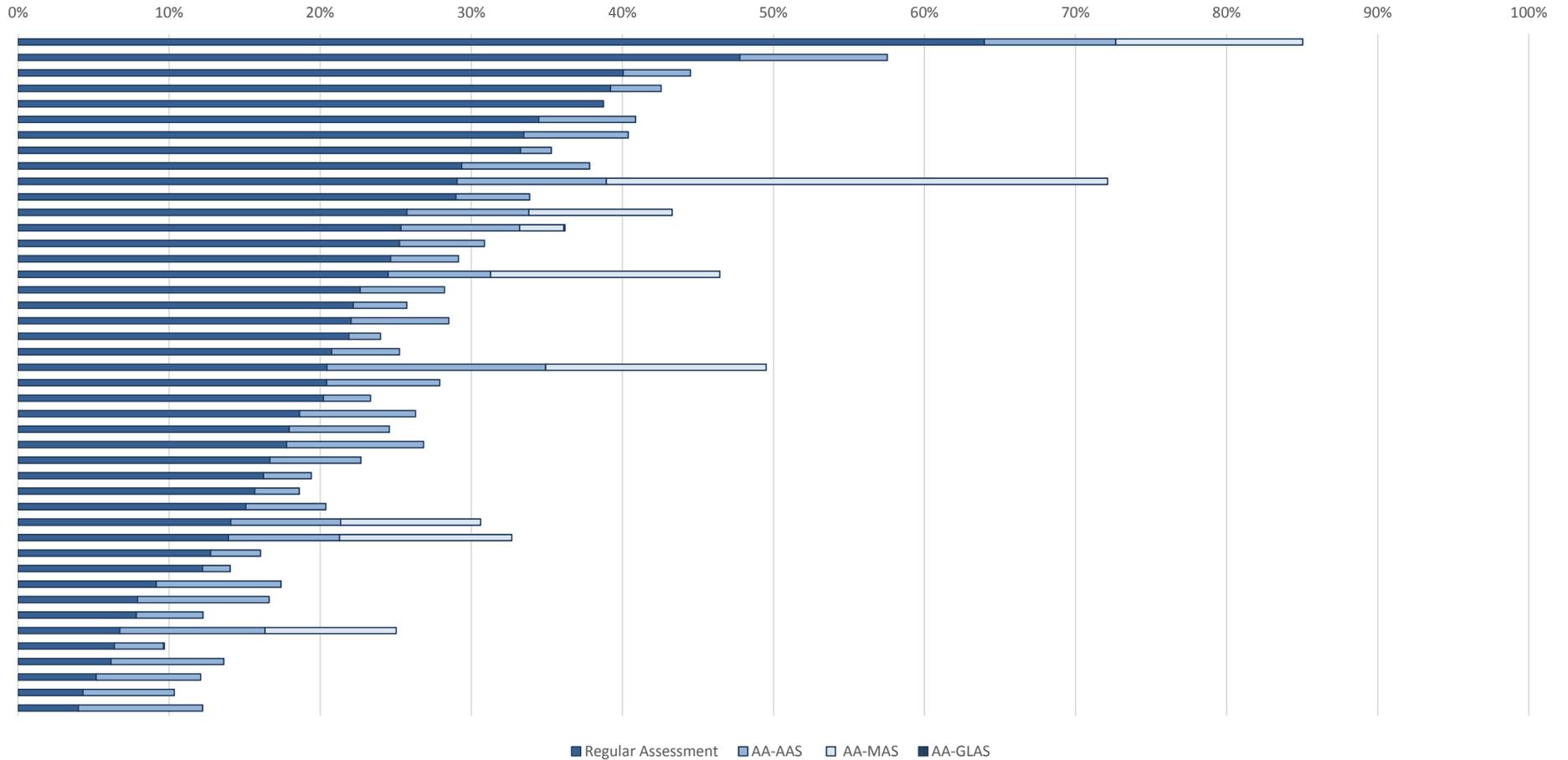
2013-2014 Participation in Reading Assessments (Gr 8)



2013-2014 Students Using Accommodations in Reading (and Math) Assessments (Gr 8)



2013-2014 Performance on Reading Assessments (Gr 8)



Alternate Assessments

- Alternate assessments required in IDEA 1997 to be developed and implemented by 2000.
- NCLB regulation in 2003 allowed for AA-AAS and AA-GLAS performance to be counted in Title I accountability
- NCLB regulation in 2007 allowed for AA-MAS performance to be counted in Title I accountability
- NCLB regulation in 2015 rescinded regulation allowing for AA-MAS performance to be counted in Title I accountability

Design of Assessments

- Students with disabilities (and English learners – ELs; and ELs with disabilities) to be considered from the beginning, rather than as an afterthought requiring retrofitting of the assessment
- Universal design identified as an approach to better meet the needs of all students in instruction and assessment
- Evidence Centered Design (and related approaches – Principled Design) used to develop assessment items

But, not everything was great by 2010

- ▶ Blaming students rather than seeking strategies to improve
- ▶ Search for ways to not include students with disabilities in accountability calculations
 - ✓ Enrolled Grade Game (EGG)
 - ✓ Moving students for n counts
- ▶ Student (teacher?) stress and anxiety

The 2010s!

Average Income: \$51,144

New House: \$232,880

New Car: \$29,217

Postage Stamp: \$0.44



Race-to-the-Top Assessment consortia launched

AA-AAS consortia launched

ELP assessment consortia launched

Flexibility for accountability introduced

OSEP initiates Results Driven Accountability (RDA)



Consortia Assessments Create Paradigm Shift for Accessibility

- Tiers of universal features, designated features, and accommodations, plus sometimes additional administrative considerations
 - Lots of different terms for the same tiers
 - Specific items within the “same” tiers are different
 - Same specific items are called different things
 - Different groups eligible for accommodations

Many lessons learned about inclusion of students with disabilities in the new consortia assessments



- Findings based on survey of teachers after administration of the assessments
- Most lessons were related to instruction or to the assessment
- Many lessons, though, were about the technology

Available at www.NCEO.info

2015 – Congress Agrees on ESEA: *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* – and President Signs

- Less federal control – more state flexibility
- State assessment requirement retained
- Participation in AA-AAS capped
- No AA-MAS or AA-GLAS allowed
- Some limitations on regulations
- Negotiated Rulemaking on Certain Aspects of Law

***IDEA is likely to build on ESSA, so
it is important to attend to ESSA ...***

