The Question...

• How do blind and visually impaired students show what they know?
  – Interviewed blind scientists
  – How did they learn science?
  – What hurdles did they face?
  – Did they do experiments? What accommodations did they receive?
Informal Survey of States

• Emailed ASES SCASS members asking if their states had performance-based Science assessments

• Several indicated that they had performance tasks on their Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS)

• Very few indicated they had a performance based assessment for grade level achievement and content.
New Science Testing for Middle and High Schools Across the Nation: Implications for Students with Disabilities

Christopher Rogers, Melissa Crone & Laurene Christensen
NCEO

• In school year 2007-2008, NCLB requires states to report on results of state science testing

• States are at different points in the policy process on their science assessments initiatives

National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)
NCEO reviewed Item Specification Documents January- March 2008

1. What comprises the content of science assessments?

2. What are the items’ response formats?

3. What are the accommodations for students with disabilities helping them participate in the statewide testing?
Middle School Science Categories

- Safety: 1
- Math in Science: 3
- Unique/Not Categorized: 5
- Systems: 1
- Environmental: 5
- Personal/Societal Perspectives: 6
- Technology: 10
- History & Nature: 16
- Inquiry Process: 25
- Earth: 34
- Life: 36
- Physical: 37

Number of States
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level in which states address accommodations for science assessments</th>
<th>Number of states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No mention of science in accommodations policies</td>
<td>N = 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few accommodations (N &lt;10) listed for science assessments</td>
<td>N = 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science listed as a category in the accommodations matrix or (N&gt;10) more accommodations are listed for science</td>
<td>N = 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Accommodation Used for Science Assessments</td>
<td>Number of States Allowing the Accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read aloud questions</td>
<td>N = 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign interpret questions</td>
<td>N = 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculator</td>
<td>N = 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scribe</td>
<td>N = 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of manipulatives</td>
<td>N = 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)