

Alt-MSA Handbook Part 3: Selecting, Writing, and Editing Mastery Objectives



Part 3 of the *Alt-MSA Handbook* describes the activities in Step 2 of the Alt-MSA process which relate to selecting or writing and Principal review of MOs (see Figure 3-1, below) and the specific operational steps in using the *Alt-MSA Online* system (<http://www.altmsa.com>) to select or write the MOs and print Alt-MSA test documents.

Figure 3-1

Step 2: Select or Write MOs (TET and Principal) September through November	
Activities	Handbook References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TET selects or writes MOs using MO Bank on Alt-MSA Online at student's grade level and instruct with grade-level and age-appropriate expectations. • Principal reviews and submits MOs by mid-October • Parents/guardians receive Alt-MSA MOs. • Written MOs submitted for technical review, feedback received, and revisions made. 	Part 3

- An MO Bank incorporated into the *Alt-MSA Online* web application (<http://www.altmsa.com>) will be used for selecting MOs. All MOs in the Bank are aligned with the VSC/CLG content standards, indicators, and objectives. However, MOs are still required to be reviewed by the Principal or designee and submitted to the Alt-MSA contractor. This submission involves a verification check to ensure that all students have the proper number of objectives in the appropriate content areas.
- MSDE expects that the instructional and assessment needs of most students will be met by selecting MOs from the bank. TETs, however, may choose to write custom MOs if the objectives in the bank do not reflect the learning needs of an individual student. These newly-written MOs will be entered into **Alt-MSA Online**, and after Principal approval, these MOs will be submitted for contractor review. These submitted written MOs will be reviewed in October to assure alignment with the VSC/CLG content standards, indicators, and objectives. Feedback on these written MOs will be posted to **Alt-MSA Online**.

Use **Alt-MSA Online** to select or write new MOs.

Principal must review MOs.

Refer to pages 1-19 and 1-20 for specific Alt-MSA test administration dates.



- When choosing to write a custom MO, TEs are reminded that it is not necessary to take an MO from the current bank and add specific information such as how the artifact will be set up or how the student will perform the behavior specifically. The MO needs only to reflect the four components as found on page 3-6 through 3-7 of the handbook. MOs remain broad enough that an artifact can be created to enable the TE to apply the MO to a student's artifact in a variety of circumstances. The artifact itself will show the specificity of how the student performs the behavior. Figure 3-2 provides examples of MOs that are custom written with unnecessary specificity. When reviewing the examples, TEs need to keep in mind that they could have selected directly from the MO Bank, kept the MO broad, created an artifact that showed the specifics of the behaviors individualized to a student and not be subject to contractor review.
- TEs should use caution when changing just one word in a bank MO. They need to determine if it is necessary to change the wording or can it be reflected in the artifact once submitted. Rewriting any word in a bank MO will change the MO status to a "custom" MO and will be subject to contractor review. Refer to figure 3-2 for examples. Selecting MOs directly from the Bank rather than writing custom MOs significantly increases the efficiency of the Alt-MSA assessment process by eliminating the MO Review and ensuring that the TET is working with an automatically approved, content-aligned MO as early as possible in the school year.

Figure 3-2

Examples of MOs written as Custom MOs when TEs could have selected directly from the MO Bank

Custom Mastery Objective: Example #1

Grade 8	1.D.3.c	Given an adapted grade level text from a Life Science unit _____, an adapted glossary with 4 words that correlates with a GoTalk 4 programmed with the correct response and three incorrect responses, with the task directive, "tell me the meaning of the word" _____", student will activate the correct location on the GoTalk4, stating information from the glossary, to state the meaning of the word " _____" with prompting, 1 time with 100% accuracy.
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Alt-MSA Bank MO:

Given vocabulary words and a glossary, student will identify the meaning of words.

Custom Mastery Objective: Example #2

Grade 8	2.A.1.b	Given a set of directions/instructional manual/ set of rules/recipe paired with pictures, and an assistive technology, student will read the functional document and follow the steps with prompting, 1 time with 100% accuracy.
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Alt-MSA Bank MO:

Given a set of directions/instructional manual/set of rules/recipe, student will read the functional document and follow the steps.



Custom Mastery Objective: Example #3

Grade 8	2.E.1.b (Grade 8)	Given illustrations of the processes which change the states of water, student will identify one of the processes (condensation/precipitation/evaporation) with prompting, 1 time with 100% accuracy.
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Alt-MSA Bank MO:

Given illustrations of the processes which change the states of water, student will identify the process (condensation, precipitation, or evaporation).

Custom Mastery Objective: Example #4

Grade 3	3.A.1	Given a pictorial representation of a thermometer, student will identify the temperature to the nearest degree/ nearest 5 degrees/ nearest 10 degrees with prompting, 1 time with 100% accuracy.
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Alt-MSA Bank MO:

Given a thermometer, student will identify the temperature to the nearest degree/nearest 5 degrees/nearest 10 degrees.

Custom Mastery Objective: Example #5

Grade 5	6.A.1	Given 3 pennies and 3 nickels spread out on a board with velcro attachments beneath each coin, 3 cards with printed values 1 cent, 3 cards with printed values 5 cents, and the directive, Match the values to the coins, student will attach the value cards beneath the correct coins with prompting, 1 time with 100% accuracy.
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Alt-MSA Bank MO:

Given a set of mixed coins, the student will identify value of each coin.

- MOs in the Bank are general statements and reflect the intent of the grade level content standard objectives. For reading and mathematics, examiners will select 10 MOs from the student's assigned grade level. The MOs included at each grade level are linked and aligned with the grade level VSC/CLG content standards selected.
- Students in grades 5 and 8 are also assessed in five science content standards: Earth/Space, Life Science, Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Science. Each student will have 10 MOs aligned with Science; 5 MOs are selected from the Science MO bank, and 2 reading MOs (1 vocabulary and 1 informational text) and 3 mathematics MOs (1 measurement and 2 data analysis) must also be aligned with science content. This alignment with science content must be evident in the artifacts and must reflect accurate science. **Reading and mathematics MOs selected for science alignment in grades 5 and 8 must reflect two or more different science content areas.**

Students are assessed in 10 reading and 10 mathematics MOs.

Students in grades 5 and 8 are assessed in 10 science MOs across 5 science content standards.

Students in grade 10 are assessed in 10 science MOs aligned with biology.