The current practice of minimum competency testing (MCT) presents a number of problems for regular students and their peers with handicaps. In this research, the communication performance of students with learning disabilities and that of their regular class peers on the Florida State Student Assessment Test-II (SSAT-II) was analyzed; item performance, skill performance, and mastery scores were tabulated and compared. Also analyzed were employers' opinions about the importance of communication skills assessed on the SSAT-II; the relative importance of various skills to employers was tabulated and compared for adolescents with learning disabilities. Identified were strengths and weaknesses in basic communication skills competence and relations among these skills performances and employer opinions. In general, this group of exceptional students performed better on skills requiring literal use of communication skills and worse on skills requiring application of communication knowledge. Employers' ratings of the extent to which various skills were required on the job supported the importance of competence in these basic skills.