

## AASCD District Justification and Assurance Template – Spring 2024

The Department is transitioning the entire district justification and assurances process to the [Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan \(CCIP\)](#). Starting January 2024, justification links will no longer be emailed to Superintendents. Instead, the entire process will be conducted through the CCIP Consolidated Application. **The due date for the district justification and assurances is April 26, 2024. No special link will be sent to superintendents.**

### **Introduction**

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to ensure the total number of students assessed using an alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities does not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of all students assessed in the state. States that anticipate they will exceed 1.0 percent are required to request a federal waiver and verify that each district or community school the state anticipates will assess more than 1.0 percent of its assessed students in any subject using an alternate assessment followed the state's guidelines for participation in the alternate assessment.

As per the Every Student Succeeds Act, Ohio requires each district or community school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject with the alternate assessment.

**New for school year 2023-2024 and beyond:** Boards of Developmental Disabilities that operate schools and receive and accept IDEA Part B funding (either IDEA Part B Special Education or IDEA Early Childhood Special Education) must complete the alternate assessment district justification form and the assurances. Students reported in the justification form for the Board of Developmental Disabilities school should not be reported by the district of residence.

Do you project your district or community school will exceed 1.0 percent of students assessed in reading, mathematics or science (any subject) with the alternate assessment in school year 2023-2024? If you select No, you will jump to Confirm Assurances & Submit. Your submission will acknowledge that your district or school has no expectation to exceed 1.0% alternate assessment participation this school year.

Yes

No

*District or School*

*Superintendent*

*Email*

Is the contact information for your superintendent accurate?

Yes

No

### **Enter Projected Data**

Use the following guidelines to review district data and complete the fields for projected district participation data for the alternate assessment in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. Guidelines:

- When calculating participation in English Language Arts, use anticipated participation data for Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts grades 3-8 and high school and anticipated participation data for alternate assessment in English Language Arts grades 3-8 and high school.
- When calculating participation in Mathematics, use anticipated participation data for Ohio's State Tests in Mathematics grades 3-8 and high school and anticipated participation data for alternate assessment in Mathematics grades 3-8 and high school.

- When calculating participation in Science, use anticipated participation data for Ohio's State Tests in Science grades 5, 8 and high school and anticipated participation data for alternate assessment in Science grades 5, 8 and high school.
- For grade 3 and high school, only count first-time test-takers. Students who will take the third grade English Language Arts test in the fall and spring should be counted only once. Students who are retaking end-of-course exams for graduation purposes should not be counted.
- Include ALL students who count for the district.

<b>ELA</b>	<b>Count of students taking ELA alternate assessment</b>	<b>Count of all students tested in ELA</b>	<b>Percent of all students taking ELA alternate assessment</b>
State Average 2022-2023	11,503	828,659	1.37%
Your district 2021-2022	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2022-2023	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
ELA Projected 2023-2024	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated

<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Count of students taking mathematics alternate assessment</b>	<b>Count of all students tested in mathematics</b>	<b>Percent of all students taking mathematics alternate assessment</b>
State Average 2022-2023	11,468	810,244	1.40%
Your district 2021-2022	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2022-2023	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Mathematics Projected 2023-2024	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated

<b>Science</b>	<b>Count of students taking science alternate assessment</b>	<b>Count of all students tested in science</b>	<b>Percent of all students taking science alternate assessment</b>
State Average 2022-2023	5,225	360,426	1.45%
Your district 2021-2022	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2022-2023	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Science Projected 2023-2024	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated

**Participation Criteria**

1. Do your records show students participating in the alternate assessment who are identified with disability categories other than multiple disabilities, intellectual disabilities, autism and traumatic brain injury?

Yes

No

**Contributing Factors**

2. Does your district provide a targeted program that may contribute to a higher enrollment of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities?

Yes

No

3. Does your district have a small overall student population that increases the likelihood of exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold?

Yes

No

4. Does your district project a reduction in the number of students participating in the alternate assessment this school year?

Yes

No

5. Provide a brief description of how the district has worked to improve alternate assessment and individualized education program practices to ensure only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are participating in the alternate assessment. Resource (Link to “District Alternate Assessment Self-Reflection Guide”).

6. What assistance is available to parents who have questions regarding eligibility to participate in the alternate assessment? Resource ([link](#)).

**District/School Assurances**

Check the following statements assuring that your district has or will have the stated conditions in place this school year.

- General and special education teachers and other appropriate staff are knowledgeable about the administration of assessments, including making appropriate use of testing accommodations.
- Our district provides individualized education program team members with training on the [Alternate Assessment Participation Decision-Making Tool](#).
- Our district allows individualized education program teams to decide which students qualify for an alternate assessment using the guidance provided by the Department.
- All alternate assessments test administrators have the [required training](#) for administering the alternate assessment.
- Our district ensures only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities participate in the alternate assessment.
- Our district addresses any disproportionality in the percentage of students in any subgroup participating in the alternate assessment.

- Parents are [informed](#) when their students will be assessed on alternate achievement standards, including information about the implications of participation in the alternate assessment.

**Please provide the following assurance.**

- Our district ensures the decision for a student to participate in the Ohio alternate assessment is NOT based solely on the following criteria:
  1. A disability category or label
  2. Poor attendance or extended absences
  3. Native language or social, cultural or economic difference
  4. Expected poor performance on the general education assessment
  5. Academic and other services the student receives
  6. Educational environment or instructional setting
  7. Percent of time receiving special education services
  8. English learner status
  9. Low reading or achievement level
  10. Anticipated disruptive behavior
  11. Impact of student scores on the accountability system
  12. Administration decision
  13. Anticipated emotional duress
  14. Need for accommodations (e.g., assistive technology; augmentative and alternative communication to participate in the assessment process)

**District/School Requirements**

Does your district need resources or technical assistance from your state support team or the Ohio Department of Education to ensure students are being assessed using the appropriate state achievement tests?

*Yes*

*No*

**Confirm & Submit**

**Districts must submit their justification by April 26, 2024.** The Department may request supporting documentation or clarification regarding content included in the justification. Please direct any questions on completing the justification to [AAparticipation@education.ohio.gov](mailto:AAparticipation@education.ohio.gov).

My district/school agrees to these conditions:

- I understand that once the survey is submitted, the submitted content and data represent the district's justification for exceeding 1.0 percent participation in the alternate assessment for school year 2023-2024.
- I understand the submitted justification will be available publicly in accordance with federal regulations.
- My district superintendent and special education director have read and approved the justification content provided.

**Justification reviewed by:**

Superintendent

I certify that all the information given in this document is true, complete and accurate.

*First Name    Last Name*

*Superintendent email*

Special Education Director

I certify that all the information given in this document is true, complete and accurate.

*First Name    Last Name*

*Special Education Director email*

Primary point of contact for alternate assessments

*First Name    Last Name*

*Alternate assessment contact email*

Submitted by

*First Name    Last Name*

*Email*

*Phone*