

District Assurances for Alternate Assessment Participation Rate Exceeding the 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold for School Year 2020-2021

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each district or community school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Due to COVID 19, the United States Department of Education waived the requirement that districts submit justifications for the 2020-2021 school year. However, they did not waive the requirement that districts provide assurances.

States are required to collect assurances from districts that anticipate testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the alternate assessment. In previous years, the assurances were embedded in the justification form. The assurances include that the district follows the state's guidelines for participation in the alternate assessment and will address any disproportionality in the percentage of students in any subgroup taking the alternate assessment.

Accordingly, any district that anticipates testing more than 1.0 percent of students with the alternate assessment is required to submit assurances for school year 2020-2021. This assurances form is greatly reduced in length from the previous year's justification.

Assurances must be submitted **no later than Jan. 29, 2021**. The Department will notify districts via Ohio K-12 Help Desk of successful submission. Please direct any questions on completing the assurances to AAparticipation@education.ohio.gov. Any district submitting assurances may be subject to further review by the Department to obtain additional clarification and documentation regarding the submitted information.

Assurances

Please provide the following assurances by checking each box below.

- General and special education teachers and other appropriate staff are knowledgeable about the administration of assessments, including making appropriate use of accommodations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- Our district provides Individualized Education Program team members with training on the Alternate Assessment Decision-making Tool.
- Our district continues to allow IEP teams to decide which students qualify for an alternate assessment using the guidance provided by the Department.
- Our district requires that Individualized Education Program teams complete and sign the Participation Guidelines for Ohio's Alternate Assessment embedded within the Individualized Education Program.

2020-2021 DISTRICT ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION ASSURANCES

- All alternate assessment test administrators have the required training for administering the alternate assessment.
- Our district ensures that the decision for a student to participate in the Ohio alternate assessment is **NOT** based solely on the following criteria:
 1. Disability category, educational environment or instructional setting.
 2. Student's instructional reading level is below grade level.
 3. Expected poor performance on the general education assessment.
 4. Administration decision or anticipated impact of student scores on the accountability system.
 5. Anticipated disruptive behavior or emotional duress if taking general assessments.
 6. Poor attendance or extended absences.
 7. The fact the student is an English learner or other social, cultural or economic differences.
 8. Need for accommodations (such as assistive technology or augmentative and alternative communication) to participate in the general assessment.
- Our district ensures that **only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities** participate in the alternate assessment.
- Our district will address any disproportionality in the percentage of students in any subgroup participating in the alternate assessment.
- Parents are informed when their student will be assessed on alternate achievement standards, including information about the educational and post-secondary implications of participation in the alternate assessment.

Confirmation

Districts must submit their assurances by **Jan. 29, 2021**. The Department will notify districts via Ohio's K-12 Help Desk of successful submission. The Department may request supporting documentation or clarification regarding content included in the assurances. Please direct any questions on completing the assurances to AAparticipation@education.ohio.gov.

- My district superintendent and special education director have read and approved the justification content provided.

Assurances reviewed by:

Please enter the names and email addresses of the district superintendent and special education director who have reviewed the content provided.

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

(Required boxes for 1 name and email addresses)

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

(Required boxes for 1 name and email addresses)

Primary Point of contact for alternate assessment:

(Required boxes for 1 name and email addresses)

Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children
1/4/2021

2020-2021 DISTRICT ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION ASSURANCES

Assurances submitted by:

(Required boxes for 1 name and email address)