

AASCD District Justification and Assurance – Spring 2026

Do you anticipate that 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 2025-2026?

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

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 expect to exceed the 1.0 percent threshold must request a federal waiver and confirm that each district or community school anticipated to surpass this percentage has followed the state's participation guidelines for 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.

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 2025-2026?

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.

ELA	Count of students taking ELA alternate assessment	Count of all students tested in ELA	Percent of all students taking ELA alternate assessment
State Average 2024-2025			
Your district 2023-2024	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2024-2025	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
ELA Projected 2025-2026	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated

Mathematics	Count of students taking mathematics alternate assessment	Count of all students tested in mathematics	Percent of all students taking mathematics alternate assessment
State Average 2024-2025			
Your district 2023-2024	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2024-2025	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Mathematics Projected 2025-2026	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated

Science	Count of students taking science alternate assessment	Count of all students tested in science	Percent of all students taking science alternate assessment
State Average 2024-2025			
Your district 2023-2024	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated
Your district 2024-2025	Prepopulated	Prepopulated	Prepopulated

Science Projected 2025-2026	Enter Here	Enter Here	Auto Calculated
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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](#)).
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 test accessibility and 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 assurances.

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 **May 22, 2026**. 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.

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 2025-2026.
- I understand the submitted justification will be available publicly in accordance with federal regulations.
- My district superintendent and special education director have read and approve 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