

1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2018–19

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires each district and charter school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject area (i.e., English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and/or Science) with the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment. Justifications from each district and charter school will be reviewed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), and follow up actions will be determined based on the information found in the justification document. Staff from the Exceptional Children and Accountability Divisions in each district and charter school should collaborate to provide the following information on the justification document. Responses to Sections 1–4 and the designated signatures are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 5). This justification document will be publicly posted. As such, the document **must not contain any personally identifiable information**. If necessary, additional pages may be attached to this form.

Section 1: Contact Information

Enter contact information for the primary district/charter school staff member responsible for overseeing the completion of the justification form.

3-Digit LEA/Charter Code: 060
Contact Name: Dr. Richard Griffin
Contact Phone No.: 828 733 6006 ex 1511
District/Charter Name: Avery County Schools
Contact Title: Director of Federal Programs
Contact E-Mail: toddgriffin@averyschools.net

Section 2: Analyzing Contributing Factors

Did the Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams utilize the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart to make alternate assessment participation decisions?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Indicate how all members of the IEP teams have been informed or trained on the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart. Check all that apply.

Training Method	School Administration	Special Education Staff	Parents	Related Service Staff
Face-to-face training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Given copy of guidance documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No training provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please explain below	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Other, please explain below:

Click or tap here

Does the district or charter school identify students to participate in the alternate assessment that do not traditionally participate (i.e., Speech and Language Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, etc.)? If yes, please explain how the district determined these students meet the criteria for participation in the alternate assessment.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Explain below:

Click or tap here

Does the district or charter school provide a targeted program that may contribute to a higher enrollment of students with significant cognitive disabilities?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Explain below:

Avery County Schools has five district wide specialized Exceptional Children targeted classrooms/programs. Two of the classes are housed at an elementary school and two are housed at the middle school level. Additionally a Life Skills classroom is housed at the high school.

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Does the district or charter school have a small overall student population that increased the likelihood of exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Explain below:

Avery County Schools is a small, rural school system with a current (2018/2019 school year) total enrollment of 1906 students. On average, each grade level spans from 140-165 students. For the 2018/2019 school year, 145 3rd graders, 146 4th graders, 159 5th graders, 154 6th graders, 161 7th graders, and 135 8th graders will take End of Course assessments. Furthermore, Avery County Schools is projecting 5 3rd graders, 3 4th graders, 1 5th grader, 2 6th graders, 3 7th graders and 2 8th graders will take the NC EXTEND 1 assessment.

Section 3: Assurances

Does the district or charter school have a process in place to monitor alternate assessment participation?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Explain below:

Annually and throughout the school year, the Exceptional Children's (EC) Director and Exceptional Childrens' Compliance Specialist works with individual schools, administrators, and teachers to review students that are following extended content standards and taking the Extend 1 Assessment. When students are considered to be appropriate for Extended Content Standards, the EC Director has further conversations with IEP teams. The EC Director ensure the following guidelines are met:

1. The student has a current IEP.
2. The student has a significant cognitive disability.
3. The student is instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas (English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics,, Science).
4. The student has a disability significantly impacts adaptive behaviors, defined as those skills which are essential for someone to live and function independently.
5. The student requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.
6. The student uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of assessing information in alternative ways.

Does the district or charter school have a process in place to identify and address disproportionality in alternate assessment participation (specifically, among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Explain below:

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The Avery County Schools current proportions closely mirror the general population. At this time, we do not feel the current numbers constitute significant disproportionality to the general population. As a result of our small size, we have found that our percentages are over the 1% threshold in some grade levels. In many cases, the percentage of overage equates to 1 student.

Section 4: Resources and Technical Assistance

What resources and technical assistance does the district or charter school need from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to ensure that students are being assessed using the appropriate assessment?

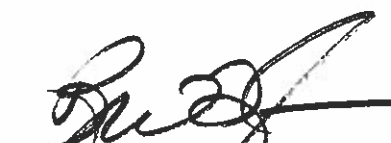
Additionally training (either online or face to face) on the Extended Content Standards will be planned in the fall of 2019 for Exceptional Childrens teachers in the district targeted classroom/programs for Avery County Schools.

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director

Exceptional Children Director/Coordinator

LEA/Charter School Test Coordinator


Richard H. Hines, Ed. D.
Brian G. Davis

Date

4-15-19

Date

4.15.2019

Date

4.15.2019

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director/coordinator, and LEA/charter school testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to alternatessessm@dpi.state.nc.us by May 3, 2019.

The NCDPI will notify districts/charter schools in writing if further information is needed and will include next steps. For questions, please contact your Exceptional Children Director or Regional Accountability Coordinator.

Note: See page 5 for additional information that can be included but is not required.