

## 1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2017-18

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 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 numbers 1–4 are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 3). 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.

1. Enter contact information for the primary district/charter school staff member responsible for overseeing the completion of the justification form.	
<b>3-Digit LEA/Charter Code: 060</b>	<b>District/Charter Name: Avery County Schools</b>
<b>Contact Name: Ellis Ayers</b>	<b>Contact Title: Director of Curriculum and Accountability</b>
<b>Contact Phone No.: 828-733-6006</b>	<b>Contact E-Mail: ellisayers@averyschools.net</b>
<p>2. Enter a description of how the district/charter school will assure that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams are adhering to the eligibility criteria as outlined in the <i>Testing Students with Disabilities</i> publication when determining student eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment.</p> <p>Avery County Schools is a small, rural school system with less than 2000 students. On average, each grade level spans from 140 to 170 students. Annually and throughout the year, the Exceptional Children’s (EC) Director 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 the Extended Content Standards, the EC Director has further conversations with the IEP team. The EC director ensures the following guidelines are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student must have a current IEP.</li> <li>• The student has a significant cognitive disability.</li> <li>• The student is instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas (i.e., English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science).</li> <li>• The student’s disability significantly impacts adaptive behaviors, defined as those skills which are essential for someone to live and function independently.</li> <li>• The student requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.</li> <li>• The student uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways.</li> </ul> <p>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. We do not feel these percentages are in line with significant disproportionality. In the 2017-2018 school year, we are anticipating 13 students participating in Extend 1, which is a decrease from the 15 students in the 2016-2017 school year.</p>	

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3. Enter a description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined and plans for how that disproportionality will be addressed.

- Description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined:

Disproportionality is described as over identification found to be in a specific subgroup, including, but not exclusive to race, gender, or socioeconomic group relative to the general population.

- Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:

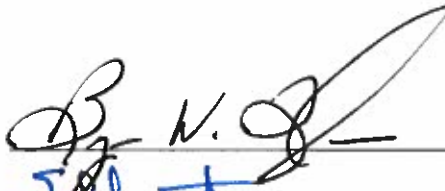
Our current proportions very closely mirror our general population. The only exception is the difference in percentage between male and female, which would be in line with the subtraction of 1 male student. We do not feel our numbers constitute significant disproportionality to our general population. In the 2017-2018 school year, we are anticipating 13 students participating in Extend 1, which is a decrease from the 15 students in the 2016-2017 school year.

4. Enter additional justification of variables not covered but deemed essential to understanding why the district/charter school has a higher rate of alternate assessment participation.

With our low enrollment numbers, percentages will vary from year to year and grade to grade.

**Signatures**

Superintendent/Charter School Director



Date 3/28/18

Exceptional Children Director - interim



Date 3/28/18

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator



Date 3/28/18

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director, and testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to [alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov) by **May 4, 2018**.

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 3 for additional information that can be included but is not required.