

## 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 NCEXTEND I 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:</b> 240	<b>District/Charter Name:</b> Columbus County Schools
<b>Contact Name:</b> Jesse E. Beck, II	<b>Contact Title:</b> EC Director
<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> 910-840-6184	<b>Contact E-Mail:</b> ebeck@columbus.k12.nc.us
<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>Columbus County Schools follows the NC Testing Guidelines, provided by NCDPI, for determining the eligibility for participating in the alternate assessment. We verify that the student has a current IEP, is enrolled in grades 3-8, 10, or 11, according to PowerSchool, the student is instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas, and the student has a significant cognitive disability. This disability is determined by the IEP team identifying students whose disability impacts their adaptive behaviors and requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.</p> <p>Columbus County Schools also employs a full-time Compliance Specialist that reviews Extend I determination and eligibility requirements. Verification of all students fall within federal and state guidelines that govern children with disabilities. Our staff members are provided with training to ensure they are knowledgeable of the requirements and procedures</p>	
<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined:</li> </ul> <p>Disproportionality is defined as significant overrepresentation based on race and ethnicity within an educational setting, eligibility identification or disciplinary sanctions as outlined in NC 1505-3.6 (a). Columbus County Schools does have some areas of disproportionality as identified by the data from the Extend I results from the 2016-2017. The students that were administered the Extend I assessments met the guidelines established by the Policies Governing Services For Children With Disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:</li> </ul> <p>Disproportionality will continue to be monitored using the guidelines established for identifying students in need of an alternate assessment. Our EC Director and Compliance Specialist will continue to participate in and monitor the identification of students that are place on the alternate curriculum and receive the Extend I assessments.</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Columbus County is a small rural county of southeastern North Carolina. Our current April 1 Headcount was 762 EC students from a total ADM of 5959. Therefore, our EC population is 12.78 percent of our overall ADM. We serve a large number of low socio-economic students and work diligently to ensure their needs are met. We closely monitor the number of students on the Extend I curriculum and will continue to follow the guidelines established to govern our EC practices.</p>	

**Signatures**

Superintendent/Charter School Director	<u>Alan Faulk</u>	Date	<u>4/24/18</u>
Exceptional Children Director	<u>Gene L. Beck, II</u>	Date	<u>4/24/18</u>
LEA/Charter Test Coordinator	<u>Lamarc D. Carter</u>	Date	<u>4/24/18</u>

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  
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.