

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.	
3-Digit LEA/Charter Code: 380	District/Charter Name: Graham County Schools
Contact Name: Kristy Cable	Contact Title: Exceptional Children Program Director
Contact Phone No.: 828-479-9820	Contact E-Mail: kcable@graham.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 style="margin-left: 20px;">Graham County Schools trains teachers on the requirements for student eligibility to be administered the Alternate Assessment for any tested area. Frequent compliance checks on IEPs are conducted to assure for compliance with Exceptional Children Policy. Testing Accommodations and testing administration are part of these compliance checks. Graham County Schools Exceptional Children's Program has staff trainings where any issues of compliance are noted.</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"> • Description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined: <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Disproportionality in Graham County Schools as it pertains to administration of the statewide Alternative Assessments is defined as an unusually high number of students in a specific category determined eligible to participate in the EXTEND 1 Alternative Assessment. Due to the number of students in each category and grade are so small, this is analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether eligibility requirements were considered and met in the IEP process throughout the student's educational services in our schools.</div> • Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed: <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Any time a student is considered for eligibility for an Alternative Assessment, the IEP Team must discuss the required components for student eligibility for administration of an Alternative Assessment. The EC Director and compliance team conducts compliance audits of IEPs in the district and checks to assure compliance of required components is met for Alternative Assessments eligibility. If there appears to be a disproportionate percentage in a particular category, the EC Director will analyze the data for each student to determine the eligibility of the students and if noncompliance is found, the director will conduct additional training on these requirements.</div> 	
<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 style="margin-left: 20px;">Graham County Schools is a small LEA with a total enrollment of 1,240 students in Preschool through 12th grade for the 2016-17 school year. The average class size for students in all grades is less than 100. Just one student eligible to take an Alternate Assessment would equate more than 1% of the student population taking any statewide assessment. Of the 1,240 students enrolled, a total of 9 students participated in the EXTEND 1 Alternate Assessment for their grade level. Reporting shows that more than 1.0% of the student population participated in the EXTEND 1 Alternate Assessment in all grades (except Grades 4, 7, and 11) due to the small class size. Grade 3 had 1 student out of a total of 89, Grade 4 had no students on EXTEND 1 out of 84 total students, Grade 5 had 2 students on EXTEND 1 out of 83 total students, Grade 6 had 2 students on EXTEND 1 out of a total of 95 students, Grade 7 had 1 student on EXTEND 1 out of a total of 98 students, Grade 8 had 1 student on EXTEND 1 out of a total of 84 students, and Grade 10 had 2 students on EXTEND 1 out of a total of 85 students. Due to the extremely small number of students enrolled in our district, just one student will effect our rate of students taking any statewide assessment in regards the breakdown looking at race, ethnicity, and disability.</p>	

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director	<u>Angela Knight</u>	Date	<u>5-3-18</u>
Exceptional Children Director	<u>Kristy Cable</u>	Date	<u>5-3-18</u>
LEA/Charter Test Coordinator	<u>Ken Dwyer</u>	Date	<u>5-3-18</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 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.