

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: 460	District/Charter Name: Hertford County Public Schools
Contact Name: Dr. Patty A. Keene	Contact Title: Federal Programs Director
Contact Phone No.: 252-358-8532	Contact E-Mail: phardy@hertford.k12.nc.us

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 *Testing Students with Disabilities* publication when determining student eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment.

The IEP team will implement the following eligibility criteria guidelines for determining which students would be eligible to participate in the alternate assessment in the district.

- The student has been identified by a formal psycho-educational assessment as having a significant cognitive disability which significantly impacts adaptive behavior and requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.
- The student uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways.
- The student is instructed using the North Carolina Extended Content Standards in all assessed content areas (English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science)
- The student is enrolled in grades 3-8, 10, or 11 according to PowerSchool.

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.

- Disproportionality in the areas of race and gender were identified on the participation data sheet from NCDPI as the areas of concern for Hertford County.
- Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:
 - Beginning at the early elementary stage, students with significant cognitive disabilities will receive small group and intensive instruction to strengthen and remediate academic skills.
 - Early interventions through MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) will be used to pinpoint and remediate significant areas of academic weakness.
 - Students with significant cognitive disabilities will be instructed in the least restrictive environment by a highly effective exceptional children teacher.

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.

Additional variables that impact the number of students participating in the alternate assessment.

- Early intervention programs specifically designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities are not readily available in our area.
- The family dynamics in our district are such that we have a large number of grandparents rearing their grandchildren and, in some cases, their great-grandchildren, and they are not able to provide adequate academic support.

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director

Exceptional

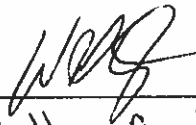
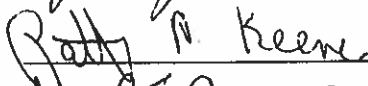

Children Director

Date

LEA/Charter Test

Coordinator

Date

Date

3-27-18

3-27-18

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 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.