

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: 33A	District/Charter Name: North East Carolina Prep
Contact Name: Dennis Hart	Contact Title: Testing & Accountability Director
Contact Phone No.: 252.641.0464	Contact E-Mail: hartwd@necprepschool.com
<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. The Exceptional Children's staff and director annually review, with parents and teachers each of the students identified to test via NCEXTEND1 assessments. In the process, each student's testing history, classroom strengths, areas of concern and growth are thoroughly discussed and evaluated in the light of the NC Accessibility Framework and decisions are made via the Five Step Decision Making Process. Through this process, each student is carefully evaluated to confirm that the NCEXTEND1 process is the most appropriate testing format for that individual student. In addition to the annual review, the Director and teaching staff meet regularly to discuss student progress and achievement. If it is determined via these meetings that a potential change in setting is necessary, a formal IEP Review meeting will be called and at that time, using the NC Framework and Five Step Decision process, any proposed changes in the accommodations OR maintaining the current setting and accommodations are thoroughly discussed and implemented. Within the daily classroom instruction, all accommodations and modifications are consistently utilized, monitored and appropriate data is collected so as to provide a clear picture of instructional effectiveness and student progress, or lack thereof.</p> <p>It should be noted that as a Charter School, the large majority of students identified as eligible for EXTEND1 accommodations were previously initially identified prior to their enrollment at NECP.</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.

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

There is not a disproportionality among race, gender or SES among the students identified to receive NCEXTEND1 accommodations. In each instance where the 1% cap was exceeded, the actual number of students was 2. NECP has smaller class/grade level sizes and, as such, the percentages can be deceiving. In both grade levels where the 1% was exceeded, the grade level size was less than 98 students thereby creating a scenario by which each student, in terms of data percentages, was worth more than 1%.

- Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:

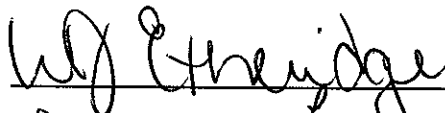
Based on discussion in previous bullet, there is not a disproportionality and there is no necessity for such a plan.

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.

As discussed in item 3's first bullet, the smaller size of the grade level population at NECP is responsible for our exceeding the 1% cap. In a grade level of 95 students, each student is considered as 1.05% of the class. As a result, when as in our case, 2 students within a grade level are on the NCEXTEND1 assessment the resultant percentage of EXTEND1 testing is 2.1% thereby exceeding NCDPI standards. In actuality, 2 students within a grade level, especially given the resources provided by our school, is not an issue with the school and the alternate assessment participation is not excessive.

Signatures

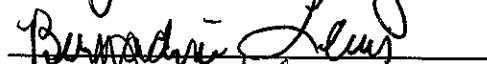
Superintendent/Charter School Director



Date

7-26-18

Exceptional Children Director



7-26-18

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator



7-26-18

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.