

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.

LEA Code: 780 District Name: Public Schools of Robeson County
Contact Name: Karen Jacobs Contact Title: EC Director
Contact Phone Number: 910-671-6000 ext. 3363
Contact Email: Karen.jacobs@robeson.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 Public Schools of Robeson County Exceptional Children's Department is currently developing a training calendar for the 2018-2019 school year which will ensure that Individual Education Program teams are adhering to eligibility criteria as outlined in the *Testing Students with Disabilities* publication by providing training in the following areas:
 - How to understand and interpret testing results
 - Eligibility criteria for alternate assessments
 - Engaging Learners to promote greater academic outcomes/success
 - Specially designed instruction at a glance- district training will focus on modifying the curriculum, interventions, and implementation of the curriculum. This training will assist teachers with understanding what to consider prior to deeming a student eligible for Extend 1 testing.
- The EC department will develop a checklist, which will be developed based upon eligibility criteria as outlined in Appendix D of the *Testing Students with Disabilities Manual*. The IEP team will utilize the checklist tool as a guide for determining whether a student needs to be assessed using an alternate standard assessment.

- Due to the high teacher turnover rate and large number of non-certified (lateral entry) personnel, there will be strong emphasis on adequately training EC faculty regarding EC procedures and policies.
- The EC department has a team of individuals drafting a new and updated policy and procedures manual which will be shared with all EC staff over the 2018-2019 school year.
- The Public Schools of Robeson County currently has plan to attract, hire, and retain additional school psychologists to better provide EC teams assistance with interpreting test data during eligibility meetings.

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.

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

- The Public Schools of Robeson County was found to be disproportionate with regard to administration of Extend 1 testing, specifically with males (2-4 times more likely than females to be assessed on the Extend 1 test).
- Data also indicated that black students in the 3rd and 10th grades (reading, math) were found to be the largest disproportionate group by racial comparison
- Data also indicated that Native American students in the 8th and 11th grades (science) were found to be the largest disproportionate group by racial comparison

2. Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:

- The Public School Schools of Robeson county will strategically address issues pertaining to disproportionality. Great effort will be placed on training to ensure that EC teachers are adhering to guidelines for providing students with alternate assessments.
- The district will continue to conduct internal audits by evaluating and analyzing data trends which will provide invaluable insight regarding students who participate in the alternate assessment process. As noncompliance is found, appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that issues are corrected while stakeholders (including parents) will be invited to participate in the corrective action process.
- As previously stated in #2 of this report, a checklist will be developed to ensure that eligibility standards for alternate assessments are met with fidelity.

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.

Robeson County is designated as a Tier 1 county, which takes in to account the average unemployment rate and median household income, among other factors. A Tier 1 county indicates a distressed area. As with many school districts in a rural areas, we are working to overcome lack of parental engagement in his/her child's education, a high concentration of drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, and an increase in crime.

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director

Shanta W. Wynn Date 5/4/18

Exceptional Children Director

Karen Jacobs Date 5/4/18

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator

[Signature] Date 5/4/18

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.