

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: 840
Contact Name: Tim Hatley
Contact Phone No.: 704.961.3025

District/Charter Name: Stanly County Schools
Contact Title: Director Testing & Accountability
Contact E-Mail: timothy.hatley@stanlycountyschools.org

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.

Stanly County Schools has already begun professional development with all personnel involved in IEP discussions for reviewing eligibility criteria for NCEExtend 1 assessments. This continuing professional development will target special considerations for how IEP teams determine eligibility and students meeting criteria in addition to how parents are notified so that they have a firm understanding of the ramifications of taking the alternate assessment. This process was outlined in the April 18 memo from the Exceptional Children's Division in response to the justification required for exceeding the 1% participation.

Prior to administering the NCEExtend 1 alternate assessment, Stanly County Schools mandates that all test alternate assessment administrators attend a joint training session between the Exceptional Children's and Testing/Accountability Departments to ensure that all participants have a firm understanding of the criteria, format, and administration of the NCEExtend 1 alternate assessment. At this present time, internal audits of individual folders, in addition to other targeted compliance checks, are conducted to verify that proper steps, in the correct sequence, were taken in the placement of any student on the extended content standards. At this time, there are no students being instructed with the extended content standards that are spending more than 80% of their time in the regular education classroom. The internal audit looks for evidence of data driven team decisions for instruction and assessment through present levels of academic and functional performances resulting in measurable annual goals in IEPs

We will continue this training next year to ensure that our IEP teams are making the best, data-driven decisions while taking into consideration the whole student and adhering to the eligibility criteria outlined in the *Testing Students with Disabilities* handbook when determining a student's eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment.

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:

Stanly County Schools anticipates that we will exceed the 1% cap in all grade levels for the 2017-18 school year. We have analyzed student enrollment data as of the April 11 Membership Last Day report to create the chart below.

Grade	Subject	Num	Den	Percent
3	RD	20	677	3.0%
3	MA	20	677	3.0%
4	RD	13	672	1.9%
4	MA	13	672	1.9%
5	RD	12	681	1.8%
5	MA	12	681	1.8%
5	SC	12	681	1.8%
6	RD	11	635	1.7%
6	MA	11	635	1.7%
7	RD	14	611	2.3%
7	MA	14	611	2.3%
8	RD	13	598	2.2%
8	MA	13	598	2.2%
8	SC	13	598	2.2%
10	RD	15	611	2.5%
10	MA	15	611	2.5%
11	SC	10	678	1.5%
All 3-8	RD	83	3863	2.1%
All 3-8	MA	83	3863	2.1%
All 5,8	SC	25	1279	2.0%

- Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:

Stanly County Schools will review the process for reliability and validity of the students eligible for assessment on the NCEExtend 1 according to the memo dated April 18, 2018. If students are appropriately identified and meet the criteria of being significantly cognitively disabled, then gender, race or area of disability cannot be considered a deficit issue for Stanly County Schools.

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 we have already stated, Stanly County Schools is a small district with an enrollment of 8201 in grades K-12 as of April 11, 2018. Enrollment in a specific grade level could range from 463 in our smallest district grade level to our largest class of 681 (our current 5th grade). These smaller sizes mean that 1 student (in our smallest class going from 4 to 5 students on the alternate assessment) can impact the 1.0% cap. In addition, district enrollment has been impacted the last few years by a local charter school, private schools, and an influx of home schools operating in our county, thus reducing the enrollment numbers of students. These small enrollment numbers are reflective of how one or two students impact the sample size, thus pushing us over the 1% cap.

An additional variable that impacts our district is that we serve students who are residents of a specialized group home which houses students from all over the state of North Carolina. In 2017-18 there were five students from this home that were eligible for the Extended Content Standards and thus the NCEExtend 1 Alternate Assessment as decided by their IEP teams.

Signatures Superintendent/Charter School Director



Date

5/4/18

Exceptional Children Compliance Specialist



Date

5/4/18

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator



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.