1.0 Percent Participation
Justification Form 2018–19

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 (i.e., English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and/or Science) 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 Sections 1–4 and the designated signatures are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 5). 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.

Section 1: Contact Information

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: 360
Contact Name: Carrie Minnich
Contact Phone No.: 704-866-6160
District/Charter Name: Gaston County Schools
Contact Title: Executive Director
Contact E-Mail: cminnich@gaston.k12.nc.us

Section 2: Analyzing Contributing Factors

Did the Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams utilize the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart to make alternate assessment participation decisions?

⊠ Yes   ☐ No

Indicate how all members of the IEP teams have been informed or trained on the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart. Check all that apply.

Training Method	School Administration	Special Education Staff	Parents	Related Service Staff
Face-to-face training	⊠	⊠	☐	⊠
Online training	☐	☐	☐	☐
Given copy of guidance documents	⊠	⊠	☐	⊠
No training provided	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other, please explain below	☐	☐	⊠	☐

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Other, please explain below:

> The criteria is discussed and explained at IEP meetings. Parents are given an information packet explaining the Extensions curriculum and asked to sign that they understand the graduation inpact.

Does the district or charter school identify students to participate in the alternate assessment that do not traditionally participate (i.e., Speech and Language Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, etc.)? If yes, please explain how the district determined these students meet the criteria for participation in the alternate assessment.

☐ Yes   ☒ No

Explain below:

> Click or tap here to enter text.

Does the district or charter school provide a targeted program that may contribute to a higher enrollment of students with significant cognitive disabilities?

☒ Yes   ☐ No

Explain below:

> Gaston County has a residential facility that has students with significant global delays that meet the criteria for Extend 1. These students come from other counties/states increasing the number of students who are assessed by Extend 1.

Does the district or charter school have a small overall student population that increased the likelihood of exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explain below:

Section 3: Assurances

Click or tap here to enter text.

Does the district or charter school have a process in place to monitor alternate assessment participation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explain below:

There is a county level committee that reviews all documentation (cognitive, adapted behavior etc.) to give guidance to school teams when Extensions are being considered. County staff (Compliance Leads, Program Facilitators) review students IEP teams have put on the Extensions to make sure all criteria is met. Guidance is given if it appears students have been placed in the Extended Curriculum incorrectly.

Does the district or charter school have a process in place to identify and address disproportionality in alternate assessment participation (specifically, among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explain below:

We determine disproportionality based on the percentage of a group that is EC in the county compared to the percentage of the same group that participates in the Extensions. Example: Total EC Male Students: 64.73%. Total Male 5th Grade Students on Extend 1: 63%. This indicates no disproportionality.

Any disproportionality will be addressed through the thorough critera and review process we have in place when schools are considering moving a student to the Extensions curriculum.
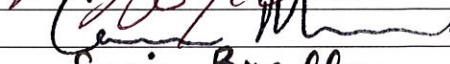
Section 4: Resources and Technical Assistance

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What resources and technical assistance does the district or charter school need from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to ensure that students are being assessed using the appropriate assessment?

We would like information on how other districts are serving the students likely to end up in the OCS curriculum at high school while they are in middle school. These students struggle with the regular curriculum, even with accommodations, but are not necessarily appropriate for the Extensions curriculum.

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director	_(signature)_	Date	5/2/19
Exceptional Children Director/Coordinator	_(signature)_	Date	4/30/19
LEA/Charter School Test Coordinator	Susie Bradley	Date	5/2/19

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director/coordinator, and LEA/charter school testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov by May 3, 2019.

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 5 for additional information that can be included but is not required.