

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: 770
Contact Name: Dr. Amber Watkins
Contact Phone No.: 910-582-5860
District/Charter Name: Richmond County Schools
Contact Title: Director of Exceptional Children's Program
Contact E-Mail: amberwatkins@richmond.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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Given copy of guidance documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No training provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please explain below	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2018–19

Other, please explain below:

Our EC team provides one-on-one training and support sessions for administrators and teachers in reference to problem solving and decision-making for individual student decisions, utilizing documents and policy information specific to alternate assessments and the Extend 1 curriculum.

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:

Click or tap here to enter text.

1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2018–19

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:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 3: Assurances

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Explain below:

Richmond County Schools has a process in place for monitoring alternate assessment participation, and continues to review the process for continuous improvement:

---EC support team members provide professional development and coaching for school staff for modifying the curriculum, providing students with appropriate interventions, and how to effectively implement specially designed instruction in order to ensure that various levels of accommodations and modifications are provided to meet students' needs, prior to consideration of eligibility for Extend 1.

---When a student's participation in alternate assessments is not in line with the policy requirements, school psychologists, EC Specialists, and IEP teams have re-evaluated the student and discussed appropriate placement. In a few cases, the IEP teams have determined that the student no longer needs to take alternate assessments, and has transitioned from Extend 1.

---Program Specialists and/or school psychologists are present to ensure that the IEP team members, including parents, understand the requirements and the ramifications for placing a student on an alternate assessment.

---EC Leadership Team conducts a review of existing data in order to assist IEP teams in making decisions regarding student participation in the alternate assessments prior to the IEP team meeting to consider eligibility for Extend 1.

---Annual professional development on the Extended Content Standards and eligibility for Extend 1 for school administrators, LEA Representatives, related services staff, and EC teachers will continue to be

1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2018–19

provided. These trainings will also include information specific to justification statements in IEPs, and a review of the team decision-making processes, along with a thorough review of the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart.

---We will continue to monitor for compliance through an internal review process for IEPs of students who participate in alternate assessments.

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:

---Richmond County Schools has identified disproportionality as it relates to students tested on alternate assessments. We continue to review all data for students assessed on the Extend 1 test.

---We review and discuss individual students and their needs, utilizing the same process and the same expectations, in order to ensure that decisions are made that are best for each student and aligned with the policy requirements.

---We conduct internal audits on the current areas of concern, as they relate to disproportionality. If the team finds that participation in the alternate assessments is not appropriate or the paperwork is not compliant, then steps are taken to ensure that the issues are corrected, and parents and IEP teams are involved in the transition/ corrective action process.


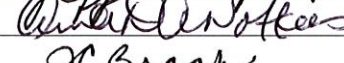

Section 4: Resources and Technical Assistance

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?

1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2018–19

Richmond County Schools welcomes regional professional development specific to the Decision-Making flow chart, as well as professional development specific to meeting the academic needs of students who require significant support in the regular education environment who are not eligible for the alternate assessments.

Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director		Date	<u>5-1-19</u>
Exceptional Children Director/Coordinator		Date	<u>5-3-19</u>
LEA/Charter School Test Coordinator		Date	<u>5-1-19</u>

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.