



Alternate Assessment 1.0% Participation

Updates, Results, Guidance and Trainings

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Kentucky 1.0% Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver

- ▶ **The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject, using an Alternate Assessment does not exceed 1.0%. States who anticipate they will exceed 1.0% in alternate assessment participation must submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (USED).**



ESSA Requirements

- ▶ Admission and Release Committees (ARCs), consistent with state's guidelines, determine when a child with a significant cognitive disability shall participate in the alternate assessment.
- ▶ Nothing in law permits the state to limit a district to the 1.0% cap on the percentage of students administered an alternate assessment.



ESSA Requirements continued

- ▶ Any district exceeding 1.0% of its students participating in the alternate assessment must submit information to the state justifying the need to exceed 1.0%
- ▶ State must provide oversight and support to districts that submit justifications for exceeding 1.0%
- ▶ State must make a district justification available to the public (as long as doing so does not reveal any personal identifiable information)



Historical Waiver Information

- ▶ In school year 2017-2018, Kentucky received approval of its first waiver.
- ▶ Kentucky submitted a waiver extension request on August 7, 2018 and received approval for the waiver on January 31, 2019.
- ▶ Kentucky requested a waiver extension on August 6, 2019 for school year 2019-2020.
- ▶ The waiver is available on the [Kentucky Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver page](#) of the KDE website.



2018-2019 School Year Alternate Assessment Participation by Subject (preliminary data)



SUBJECT	NUMBER PARTICIPATING IN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (2018-2019 SY)*	NUMBER PARTICIPATING IN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT (2018-2019 SY)*	PERCENT PARTICIPATING IN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT (2018-2019 SY)*
Reading (elem/middle/high)	4,023	351,037	1.15%
Mathematics (elem/middle/high)	4,030	351,044	1.15%
Science (elem/middle/high)	1,786	147,236	1.21%
Social Studies (elem/middle)	1,137	101,795	1.12%
Writing (elem, middle, high)	1,720	147,218	1.17%

Comparison of SY 2016-2017, SY 2017-2018 and SY 2018-2019 Alternate Assessment Participation by Subject



Subject	SY 2016-2017 % Participating in AA-AAAS	SY 2017- 2018 % Participating in AA-AAAS	SY 2018- 2019 % Participating in AA-AAAS	% Change between SY 2017-2018 & 2018-2019
Reading (elem/middle/high)	1.16%	1.13%	1.15%	+ 0.02%
Mathematics (elem/middle/high)	1.16%	1.13%	1.15%	+ 0.02%
Science (elem/middle/high)	N/A	1.12%	1.21%	+ 0.09%
Social Studies (elem/middle)	1.28%	1.17%	1.12%	- 0.05%
Writing (elem/middle/high)	1.27%	1.24%	1.17%	- 0.07%

Overall Statewide Participation (not by subject)



School Year	Number of Students Participating in AA-AAAS	Number of Students Participating in General Assessments	Percent of Students Participating in AA-AAAS
2018-2019	5,190	453,509	↓ 1.14%
2017-2018	5,439	455,063	1.20%
2016-2017	5,387	454,119	1.19%

Overall statewide percentage of students eligible to participate in the alternate assessment



School Year	Number of Students Eligible to Participate in AA-AAAS	Number of Students (all)	Percentage of Students Eligible to Participate in AA-AAAS
2018-2019	5,505	654,068	↓ 0.84%
2017-2018	6,242	648,068	↓ 0.96%
2016-2017	6,380	656,588	0.97%

2018-2019 District Justification Responses based on 2017-2018 School Year data

- ▶ ESSA requires each district to submit an annual justification if the district alternate assessment participation rates are greater than 1.0% in one or more subject areas.
- ▶ 142 districts exceeded 1.0% participation in alternate assessments for school year 2017-2018.
- ▶ The [Justification Summary](#) is available on the KDE website.



Challenges Identified in Justifications

- ▶ **19 districts indicated a need for additional information and training specific to each participation criteria indicated on the *Kentucky Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines* form.**



Other Justifications Provided



Other (please specify) Justification Answers Provided – Common Themes	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Enrollment	26	17.81%
Eligibility	16	10.96%
Need for Training	10	6.85%
Socio-Economic	7	4.79%

Common Themes Identified

- ▶ **Enrollment**
- ▶ **Eligibility**
- ▶ **Need for training**
- ▶ **Socio-Economic issues**



Enrollment

- ▶ Decrease in overall student enrollment in the district over the last few years.
- ▶ Non-resident students are open enrolled into the district.
- ▶ High population of students who have been enrolled in multiple schools per school year.



Enrollment continued

- ▶ Higher enrollment of students with moderate to severe disabilities population because more specialized programs and resources are available in the district.
- ▶ 1.0% cap calculation based on each subject area as opposed to an overall population participation affected the numbers.



Eligibility

- ▶ High number of eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (due to appropriate eligibility and due to small population size).
- ▶ Calculation formula discrepancy (Child Find data discrepancy).



Need for Training

- ▶ District is completing record reviews and other trainings to improve eligibility determination process and practice.



Socio-Economic Issues

- ▶ **Socio-economic issues i.e. low poverty levels in district, high levels of substance abuse leading to increase in children born with significant disabilities.**



2018-2019 Monitoring

- ▶ LEA justification analysis – identify root causes for high participation in the alternate assessment
- ▶ Desk Review of *Participation Guidelines*
 - *28 Districts Reviewed*
 - Updated Data Verification Reports
 - Results will be disseminated to all districts and educational cooperatives



2018-2019 School Year Monitoring Results



Number of Districts	Number of Records Reviewed	Number of Records Compliant with Participation Guidelines Requirements	Percent of Records Compliant with Participation Guidelines Requirements
28	134	26	19%

Common Noncompliance Issues continued

- ▶ The current level of cognitive and adaptive functioning was not documented in the student file.
- ▶ The cognitive and adaptive functioning data provided in the student's IEP and characteristics identified in the student's Learner Characteristics Inventory (LCI) was inconsistent with the definition of a student with the most significant cognitive disability.



Additional Common Noncompliance Issues

- ▶ The ARC did not document it carefully considered and discussed each of the exclusionary factors when determining assessment needs of the individual student.
- ▶ The ARC did not document and provide a statement of its decision and the reasons for the decision that the student met all criteria for participation in the alternate assessment.





2018-2019 Process

New Guidance Developed

- ▶ Guidance for Admissions and Release Committees (ARCs) on Participation Decisions for the Kentucky Alternate Assessment updated to include additional clarification and resources based on feedback
- ▶ Participation Guidelines Record Review Document updated based on feedback from district
- ▶ Parent Guide to Alternate K-Prep (Spanish version available)
- ▶ Parent Info Sheet (new)
- ▶ Parent Module – in development



P4AA Plan



▶ Statewide Online Training Modules

- Administrators track
- Educator track
- Annual Review Module (new)

▶ Regional Cooperative Trainings

- ARC simulation with student case scenarios
- Professional learning around students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Differentiated learning and Inclusion

P4AA Project Module Training Outline



▶ Statewide Online Training Modules

- Administrators track (DoSE, School Admins) – completed only once
 - ✓ Modules 1, 2, 4, & 5
 - ✓ ARC Chairpersons – Module 2
- Educator track (Special Education Teachers, Related Service Providers) – completed only once
 - ✓ Modules 3 & 4

▶ Annual Review Module (DoSE, School Admins, ARC Chairpersons, Special Education Teachers, Related Service Providers) – **Completed Annually**

Example

- ▶ John - special education teacher - completed all required modules (3 and 4) in February 2018.
- ▶ John does not need to complete the original modules (modules 3 and 4) annually.
- ▶ John completed the original modules required.
- ▶ John will need to complete the new Annual Review Guidance for Alternate Assessment Participation module next year.
 - The purpose of the annual module is to be an annual refresher course on understanding and implementing the participation guidelines each year.



Regional Trainings

- ▶ **Contact your regional special education cooperative representatives for:**
 - **Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines Training**
 - **Core Content Training for Students on Alternate Assessment**



2019-2020 Waiver Work Timeline



Task	Projected Dates
Kentucky 1.0 Percent Waiver Submitted to U.S Department of Education	August 6, 2019
Alternate Assessment and Diploma Advisory Group Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Regional Capacity Training - Review and edit Parent Module - Review and edit Parent Flyer 	August 14, 2019
Alternate Assessment and Diploma Advisory Group Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review AA-AAAS Desk Review Results - Final drafting of guidance and trainings 	September 11, 2019

2019-2020 Waiver Work Timeline continued



Task	Projected Dates
DoSE Institute - Alternate Assessment Update	September, 3-4, 2019
<p>KDE publicly reports initial assessment data for the school year 2018-2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• per state regulation 703 KAR 5:240 Section 7, local school districts have 10 days after the official release, to request adjustments to or appeal their data.• The KDE requires time to review the requested appeals and adjustments in order to validate the data for final data public release.	Fall

2019-2020 Waiver Work Timeline continued

Task	Projected Dates
KDE - AA-AAAS Benchmark Report Review	October – November 2019
Regional Capacity Training: CEC conference	November 24-26, 2019
District-level AA-AAAS participation data Review	November 2019
Kentucky waiver addendum due to USED - Final Statewide Alternate Assessment Participation Data	November 1, 2019
District Justifications	December 2019
AADAG Meeting to review justifications and training feedback	January 2020
Monitoring of Alternate Assessment Participation	Spring 2020



For more information

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