

Justification for exceeding the 1% participation rate in the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Disabilities

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure the total number of students assessed in each subject, using the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, does not exceed one percent of the total number of all students in the state assessed with WV's State Tests. States that anticipate that they will exceed 1.0 percent in alternate assessment participation must submit a waiver request to the US Department of Education 90 days prior to the beginning of the alternate assessment testing window. Furthermore, the ESSA requires each district to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject with the alternate assessment. Justifications by each district will be reviewed by the department. All justifications will be posted and made publicly available provided that it does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

- Name of district
Wood County Schools
- Address of district
1210 Thirteenth Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
- Contact Information
Yvonne Santin, Director of Special Education; (304) 420-9655; ysantin@k12.wv.us
- Percentage of students who participated in the Alternate Assessment in the 2016-2017 school year by subject.
Math: 1.37% ELA: 1.36% Science: 1.47%
- Total number of students in district who are anticipated to participate in testing grades 3-8 and 11 during the 2017-2018 school year by subject.
6,438
- Total number of students in district who are anticipated to participate in the WV Alternate Assessment during 2017-2018 school year by subject.
Math: 67 (1.04%) ELA: 67 (1.04%) Science: 31 (0.48%)
- Calculation of district percentage of students on alternate assessment 1.04 %
- Description of how the district is assuring the IEP Teams are adhering to the criteria as outlined by the WV Participation Guidelines for AA-AAAS in determining student eligibility for participation.

Wood County Schools annually exercises due diligence in assuring that IEP Teams are adhering to the criteria for administration of the Alternate Assessment. All special education and related service professionals as well as school administrators responsible for supervising special education services receive annual training. The SPP Indicator (3B2) regarding Alternate Assessment Participation is discussed. In addition, all IEPs for students with disabilities are reviewed by the professional staff in our county Special Education Office to check for compliance, especially with regard to disability categories.

Speculation as to why the target of 1% has not been met may be due to the loss of total enrollment in our county over the last several years (150+ students per year) while the total number of students participating in the Alternate Assessment has remained more stable.