

## **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
- Address of district
- Contact Information
- Percentage of students who participated in the Alternate Assessment in the 2016-2017 school year by subject.
- 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.
- Total number of students in district who are anticipated to participate in the WV Alternate Assessment during 2017-2018 school year by subject.
- Calculation of district percentage of students on alternate assessment \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 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.

**Information may include, but is not limited to:**

- Ensuring that all educators that administer the WV AA-AAAS meet requirement for test administrators including being trained to administer the WV AA-AAAS.
- Reviewing alternate assessment participation data to see if there are high percentages of students in disability categories that don't typically include students with significant cognitive disabilities (e.g. SLD, speech or language impairment, visual impairment hearing impairment, ED/BD)
- Reviewing accessibility features for all students to ensure that all students have appropriate access to features on statewide tests (see *Guidelines For Participation in WV State Assessments 2016-2017*)