

2017-18 Alternate Assessment Justification

The following must be completed by districts contributing to the state exceeding the 1% cap for students participating in the alternate assessment. Please return the completed form to Leslie.M.Hoffman@tn.gov by Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2019, by 5 p.m. CT.

District Name: Dyer County Schools

	% of Alternative Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	1.36%	1.65%	1.50%
MSAA Math	1.46%	1.60%	1.50%

1. **Percentage Goal:** What is your goal in addressing decision making for identifying the right students for the alternate assessment?

The Dyer County School System utilizes the Tennessee State Department of Education assessment guidelines for evaluation and assessment. All students referred for special education will have a comprehensive assessment. That comprehensive assessment will contain a cognitive assessment, academic achievement assessment, classroom observations, and if appropriate, adaptive behavior assessments (home and school), adaptive behavior observations, and any other pertinent assessments to be completed by appropriate evaluation team members. Determinations are then made based on a student's qualifying disability and individual needs. These determinations are made on an individual basis and are not based upon race, ethnicity, gender, age, and/or socio-economical status.

In Dyer County, the IEP team will continue to review all pertinent data and make sure that the decisions made by the team reflect the individual needs of the students.

Dyer County will collect data on all students who are currently on the alternate assessment and review each child's individual data in order to make a good faith decision on which assessment is most appropriate for each individual child. Those students with the most significant of cognitive disabilities will remain on the alternate assessment.

2. **Process:** Describe the process, training, and steps the district will use to meet the percentage goal reduction proposed above.

Dyer County Schools sent a team to the PIE Conference in January of 2018. Part of the team attended the session on 1% Alternate Assessment: Decision Making Considerations.

All special education teachers will be trained on this decision making process. Each student's Comprehensive evaluation will be reviewed and the IEP team will determine what assessment is most appropriate for each student.

3. **Disproportionality:** Explain how the school district is addressing any disproportionality identified in areas that include, but are not limited to: student's IEP disability, number of students with disability, grade bands (elementary, middle, high school).

Dyer County Schools will continue to follow the State Department of Education guidelines for assessment and identification for Intellectual Disability. In addition, the decision for a student to participate in the alternative assessment is made on an individual basis by the IEP team.

4. **Parent Participation:** How do parents participate in, or how are they notified of, the IEP decision for their student to participate in the alternate assessment(s)?

All parents are invited to participate in ALL IEP team meetings. All changes to an alternate assessment happen with informed parent consent. Whether that takes place in person or by phone, all parents will participate in the decision to participate in alternate assessments.

5. **Support Requested:** Please detail any support needed from the department. (All feasible requests for supports will be considered.)

We would like to have access to the list of students included in the alternative assessments for each year. We could have an actual list or direction on where to find the information. We tried to contact Easy IEP, and they could not even generate the list for prior years. They finally stopped replying to my email messages.