

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: Cannon County Schools

	% of Alternative Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	1.80%	1.94%	.86%
MSAA Math	1.67%	1.94%	.86%

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

Cannon County's goal is to assure that only student's that meet all three criteria descriptors outlined in the Tennessee Alternate Assessments Participation Decision Documentation will be considered to participate in the Alternate Assessments, thus helping our district to stay within the 1% cap.

2. **Process:** Describe the process, training, and steps the district will use to meet the percentage goal reduction proposed above.
 - Cannon County will provide appropriate school staff additional training on using the alternate assessment participation guidelines to make assessment participation decisions including, but not limited to understanding the implications of student participation in the alternate assessment as it applies to the type of diploma the student earns, as well as the student's postsecondary and career pathway.
 - Staff will guide IEP teams to appropriately use the Tennessee Alternate Assessments Participation Decision document to assure the following federal participation guidelines are followed:
 - The student has a significant cognitive disability

- The student is learning content linked to (derived from) state content standards.
- The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in the grade-and-age appropriate curriculum.
- Cannon County will distribute resources to parents related to eligibility criteria and implications of participation.

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).

There are no disproportionalities identified at this time.

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)?

Parent participation is very important for our students. Cannon County makes every possible attempt to schedule meetings when parents can attend. Parents are provided a written invitation to meetings at least two weeks prior to the meeting. At IEP team meetings, parents are provided a copy of the Procedural Safeguards with a brief description of its contents. Parents are encouraged to bring any concerns, changes or any other information that may need to be shared or addressed. Parent concerns and provided information are included in the student's IEP and viewed as relevant data in all decision making. The parent is a full participating member of the student's IEP team. The team reviews present data to determine the student's Present levels of performance. The team then sets appropriate goals based on student data. The team determines needed accommodations and/or modifications to help the student access the curriculum. The team determines the Least Restrictive Environment appropriate for the student. They determine Special Education Services and the duration of. The team discusses the student's participation in state testing. All prior discussed data is taken into consideration. If the team is considering the Alternate Assessment, they then use the Tennessee Alternate Assessment participation decision documentation guidelines to determine eligibility for the assessment. Parents are informed of the implications of the decision to participate including:

- Their child's academic achievement will be measured based on alternate achievement standards.

- Participation in the alternate assessment may delay or otherwise affect completing requirements for a regular high school diploma. The alternate achievement standards are not the requirements for the regular high school diploma but are aligned to the alternate academic diploma.

There are many other things covered in an IEP meeting such as transition, ESY, etc. After all decisions have been made to write an appropriate Individualized Education Plan for the student, all members sign if they agree or not. Parents are provided a final copy of the IEP with all decisions made. If the Alternate Assessment is determined necessary and most appropriate, a copy of the Tennessee Alternate Assessment participation Decision documentation is also provided. Parents are provided a prior written notice of any changes made in the IEP.

If parents choose not to attend IEP meetings, their input is solicited by case managers and included in the IEP for all consideration with all decisions. Parents are provided a copy of finished IEPs for signatures to agree or wishes to make changes. Parents are also provided prior written notice of any changes. If Alternate Assessment is determined necessary, parents are provided a copy of the Alternate Assessment participation decision documentation with explanation of implementations.

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

Cannon County needs additional support with Skyward, EIS, and State data matching. It is difficult to monitor and/or be accountable for, when the data is not reporting the same to the school system as it is to the state. Our data for participation for 2017-2018 does not match with the state's data enclosed in the above graph. A clearer understanding of when and where data is collected from by the state would be helpful.