

2018-2019 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.

District Name: Montgomery County

	% of Alternative Assessments 2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments 2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments 2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	1.34%	1.40%	1.65%
MSAA Math	1.28%	1.40%	1.55%

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

CMCSS strives to do what is ethically and professionally responsible toward each and every one of our students. We will continue to work to ensure that every student qualifying for the alternate assessment is appropriately identified; requires this level of assessment; and that the assessment is considered to be the least restrictive assessment possible.

CMCSS analyzed the scores from our 24 elementary schools. Two students out 118 in our 24 elementary schools scored a 4 on the MSAA, so our consulting team met with the schools to move those students out to more general education time. We will continue to analyze scores and provide appropriate consultation to schools regarding the alternate assessment.

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

Our percentages have been consistent over the years. As we work to ensure that every students' needs are met, it is our goal to reduce the number as appropriate. We do not want to over-identify, nor do we want students taking assessments that are not meeting their individual needs. We provide LRE training twice a year, which includes the Alternate Assessment Guidance from TDOE.

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).

The only area where our district was found disproportionate was in discipline.

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)?

Parents are invited to participate in their child's IEP team meetings, which include eligibility for alternate assessment. The school psychologist enters the cognitive and adaptive assessment results into the "Eligibility for Alternate Assessment" section in EasyIEP. During the IEP meeting, the team determines whether the alternate assessment is an appropriate option for the student, following the alternate assessment participation guidelines.

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

CMCSS welcomes advice and/or guidance from TDOE regarding what the district can do to work toward reducing the number of students taking the alternate assessment.

As we have many parents and multiple advocates that advise our parents, we would appreciate a representative from TDOE to discuss this topic at one of our parent forums.