

## 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](mailto:Leslie.M.Hoffman@tn.gov) by Wednesday, Feb. 26th, 2019 by 5 p.m. CT.

### District Name: Jefferson County Schools

	% of Alternative Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	2.03%	1.96%	1.39%
MSAA Math	1.83%	1.96%	1.39%

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

The goal is to correctly identify students who meet the requirements of the alternate assessments and continue to stretch those students who can access the TNReady through inclusion in general education classes, thus lowering the percentage of SWD taking the alternate assessments. This will only occur through continued trainings, deep discussion with all team members at an IEP meeting, and a district mindset of programming options to allow students the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

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

Since the fall of 2018, a Districtwide effort has been implemented with special education teachers and school psychologists to review all files and determine if students assigned to take alternate assessments actually qualify or would benefit from participating in the TNReady assessment. A shift in mindset within the district is helping identify students who were originally been placed on an alternate assessment track who are now taking the TNReady.

In addition, I believe the ASPEN schedule has ensured students are assigned to the correct courses needed to participate in the correct assessment each year.

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 does not seem to be any disproportionality within the district across grade bands. However, we will continue to look at students taking the alternate assessment to ensure we do not exceed the 1% cap. The number of students in each grade band participating in the alternate assessment ranges from 7-12 students.

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)?

Discussion of participation in alternate assessment is addressed with families during the IEP meetings. Deep discussion has occurred with parents who have had a child in the past taking an alternate assessment but who is now taking the TNReady.

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

The opportunity to continue to attend trainings will help my staff understand the long term effects of alternate assessment determination.