

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: Knox County Schools

	% of Alternate Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	1.18%	1.34%	1.18
MSAA Math	1.18%	1.34%	1.18

- Percentage Goal:** What is your goal in addressing decision making for identifying the right students for the alternate assessment? The KCS goal for projected percentage of students taking the Alternate Assessment for 2018-2019 is 1.18% for both content areas.
- Process:** Describe the process, training, and steps the district will use to meet the percentage goal reduction proposed above. The process to reduce the percentage of students taking the Alternate Assessment will focus heavily on training and retraining special education teachers, school psychologists, and special education supervisory staff. Each group will be trained (or retrained if they have already participated in the training). We will use the materials provided by the State Department that includes: The Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines Decision Making Tools for IEP Teams and the three documents that go into detail explaining Criterion 1, Criterion 2, and Criterion 3 on the Participation Guidelines. Schools will also review the 2017-2018 Alternate Assessment scores to identify which students are Level 3 and Level 4 to consider the appropriate assessment for the next school year.
- 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). After analyzing the school system's data, KCS has identified 1.5% of 8th grade students last school year participated in the Alternate Assessment. To address this overage, supervisory staff from central office along with the IEP team members will review the student data and previous test scores for all of the students identified for the Alternate Assessment currently in 9th grade. A

comprehensive review of each student's individual data will ensure that the appropriate process for identifying those students for the Alternate Assessment has been and will continue to be followed.

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 included in the IEP team meeting discussion on the Alternate Assessment as the Participation Guidelines are reviewed. This discussion includes full information about the diploma path and graduation criteria for team consideration. In following years, the IEP team uses the student's alternate assessment results as additional data to assist with assessment determination.
5. **Support Requested:** Please detail any support needed from the department. (All feasible requests for supports will be considered.) It would be beneficial for the State Department to come to Knox County schools to provide training on the Participation Guidelines to assist IEP teams in determining students eligible for the Alternate Assessment. I attended a training session at TAASE in December and found that training very beneficial when considering who is appropriate to participate in the Alternate Assessment and determining which students are in the lowest 1%.