

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 Monday, Feb. 11, 2019 by 5 p.m. CT.

District Name: Milan Special School District

	% of Alternative Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	2.85%	3.84%	3.39%
MSAA Math	2.85%	3.84%	3.39%

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

Our goal is to ensure all students are assessed on the appropriate state assessment and that we make these decisions with proper considerations. We anticipate that our percentage has decreased from last year if our numbers remain the same.

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

Process-Complete thorough file reviews of all students participating in alternate assessment with a well-trained team of professionals.

Training-Provide thorough training for all staff involved in the decision making process for alternate assessment. We have hired a full-time school psychologist to assist in improving accurate identification of students would meet eligibility criteria for the alternate assessment. We have sent our staff to multiple trainings provided by the state on the alternate assessment decision making process. We will complete the Determination of Eligibility for Alternate Assessment Participation form for every student participating in the Alternate Assessment in Milan Special School District.

Steps-

- review student records and important information across multiple school years and settings (e.g., school, home, community)
- determine whether the student fits all of the criteria for participating in the alternate assessment

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).

We are addressing our disproportionality with training for our staff, adding a full-time school psychologist, and improving communication with parents. We have completed file reviews on nearly every student participating in the alternate assessment. Our school psychologist has completed new testing on several students. We are in the process of finishing our last few files to ensure every student is participating in the appropriate state assessment. This has been done for each disability category and grade band for TCAP ALT students. However, we contend that our district is known for the exceptional support given to our students with special needs. Many families move to our district for the support and service we provide all students. We have been recognized by The Department of Education for our exceptional transition program for students with disabilities. We are confident this plays a large part in the higher percent of students participating in the alternate assessment at Milan Special School District. We request that we not be penalized for our exceptional service to our most at risk 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)?

Parents sign the Determination of Eligibility for Alternate Assessment Participation form at the IEP meeting where state assessments are discussed and decided on. Our school psychologist reviews the information with the parent to explain the decision making process and to answer any questions the parent may have. The case manager also speaks to the parent about the options for the child and the team, including the parent, makes a decision about participation in TNReady or Alternate Assessments.

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