

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: Houston County Schools

	% of Alternative Assessments: 2016-2017 Administration	Current % of Alternate Assessments: 2017-2018 Administration	Projected % of Alternate Assessments: 2018-2019 Administration
MSAA ELA	2.38%	2.22%	1.43%
MSAA Math	2.35%	2.22%	1.43%

- Percentage Goal:** What is your goal in addressing decision making for identifying the right students for the alternate assessment?
 - Goal for 2019-20: reduce the % participating in Alt Assessment to 1.25%
 - Goal for 2020-21: reduce the % participating in Alt Assessment to 1.0 %
- Process:** Describe the process, training, and steps the district will use to meet the percentage goal reduction proposed above.
 - Continue with annual review of participation data, analysis of student characteristics of participating students, and exploring trends across eligibility and location of IEP services
 - Facilitate team-based discussions around participation status of any student scoring a 4 on ELA or Math Alternate assessment
 - Review and disseminate guidance from TDOE including *Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines: Decision Making Tools for IEP Teams* and the three criterion found in *Consideration for Participation in the Alternate Assessment* with district and building administrators and special educators county-wide
 - Provide PD opportunities for special and general educators on differentiation and scaffolding within Tier I instruction
 - Continue PD opportunities addressing making special education the most intensive intervention

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).
- No disproportionality noted in 2017-18 APR
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/guardians continue to be invited to and encouraged to attend all IEP meetings
 - Heightened focus of team discussion with parent/guardian on impact participation in alt assessment will have on diploma-type student would be working toward
 - Parent signature/consent continue to be obtained at meeting
 - Copy of *Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines: Decision Making Tools for IEP Teams* to be provided to parent/guardian at meeting
 - Follow-up discussion on alt assessment and diploma impact to be led by casemanager/LEA Rep if parent/guardian does not attend the IEP meeting
 - Copy of *Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines: Decision Making Tools for IEP Teams* sent with IEP for signatures if parent did not attend meeting
 - Decision always to be reflected in *Prior Written Notice* provided to parent
5. **Support Requested:** Please detail any support needed from the department. (All feasible requests for supports will be considered.)
- No additional TDOE support requested at this time