



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer

DATE: November 1, 2019

SUBJECT: Justification for School Districts Exceeding the 1.0 Percent Threshold for Students Participating in the Alternate Assessment in 2018-19

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places a state-level cap on the total number of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are assessed with an alternate assessment to 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in the subject. States may not prohibit a local educational agency (LEA) from assessing more than 1.0 percent of its assessed students with an alternate assessment. However, states are expected to require all LEAs that assess more than 1.0 percent of their assessed students in any subject with an alternate assessment, to submit information to the state justifying the need to exceed the 1.0 percent threshold.

Please see the [district-level alternate assessment participation data for 2018-19](#). These data are based on a student's special education nexus district; it includes all students for whom a district is fiscally responsible for the implementation of the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Any school district exceeding the 1.0 percent alternate assessment threshold in either English language arts or mathematics must complete and submit the attached form titled "[Justification for School Districts Exceeding the 1.0 Percent Threshold](#)." This form should be submitted via e-mail to marlene.chamero@ct.gov no later than **Friday, December 6, 2019**.

As required by ESSA, the CSDE will review all justifications received and post them publically on the CSDE web site. The CSDE may also contact the district with any questions, or to provide technical support. As a reminder, CSDE guidance on determining a student's eligibility to participate in the alternate assessment system is contained in the following key resources:

- [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System Participation Flowchart](#)
- [Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions-Connecticut Alternate Assessment Eligibility Form](#)

Additional information is available at the [Connecticut Alternate Assessment System web page](#) and the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). Please also do not hesitate to contact Abe Krisst, Bureau Chief, Student Assessment, Performance Office via e-mail at (abe.krisst@ct.gov) or Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director via e-mail at (bryan.klimkiewicz@ct.gov) with any questions.