

1 Percent Threshold Guidance for Special Education Students Taking Alternate Assessments

STATE REPORTING OF 1% THRESHOLD

Federal regulations requires that states can only have 1% of the student population taking statewide assessments participate on the NSCAS-Alternate Assessment.

This percentage is calculated by:

- 1) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA ELA \div total number of students taking NSCAS-ELA and ACT assessments
and
- 2) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA M \div total number of students taking NSCAS-M and ACT assessments
and
- 3) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA S \div total number of students taking NSCAS-S and ACT assessments

States are held strictly to this 1% threshold for participation.

LOCAL DISTRICT REPORTING OF 1% THRESHOLD

This percentage is calculated by:

- 1) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA ELA \div total number of students taking NSCAS-ELA and ACT assessments
and
- 2) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA M \div total number # of students taking NSCAS-M and ACT assessments
and
- 3) taking the total number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) participating on NSCAS-AA S \div total number of students taking NSCAS-S and ACT assessments

Districts are required to complete the Justification for Exception to the 1% Threshold and submit to NDE. Since we are asking you to project what your total number of participating students on the alternate assessment will be for the coming school year, it is required that all districts complete these forms. Even if your district does not have any students participating on the alternate assessment, we still need to have this information provided.

NDE STEPS

1. NDE will calculate the number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) in each district who participated on the NSCAS-AA ELA, NSCAS-AA M and NCSAS-AA S.
2. NDE will calculate the number of students (grades 3-8 and 11) in each district who participated on NSCAS-ELA, NSCAS-M, NCSAS-S and ACT.

3. NDE will divide the number of participating students (Item 1) on the NSCAS-AA ELA, NSCAS-AA M and NCSAS-AA S by the number of students in the district participating on the NSCAS-ELA, NSCAS-M, NCSAS-S and ACT (Item 2).
4. Superintendents at all districts will receive an email providing them with the following information:
 - District percentages for participation in English Language Arts, Math and Science for the Alternate Assessment
 - Background information regarding the 1% Rule
 - “Justification for Exception to the 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold on the NSCAS Alternate Assessment” form for current year, Justification Support Worksheet, etc.
 - Instructions for completing the “Justification for Exception to the 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold on the NSCAS Alternate Assessment” form and other required documentation.
5. NDE Title I, Assessment, and Special Education staff will review all exception requests and come to one of the following conclusions:
 - An exception request may not be accepted if it does not meet the requirements.
 - An exception request may be allowed for the total percentage requested by the district.