

## Justification for Exceeding the One Percent Threshold for Participation in the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject using the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (NDAA) does not exceed one percent (1%) of the total number of students taking the North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA). The ESSA requires that each district complete and submit a justification when they anticipate exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject with the alternate assessment. Justifications submitted by each district will be reviewed by the North Dakota Department of Instruction (NDDPI).

NOTE: All district justifications will be made publicly available upon request, provided that the justification does not reveal personally identifiable information about any individual student.

**Please provide the following information in the justification:**

School District	
District Superintendent	
Superintendent's email	
Special Education Director	
Special Education Director's email	
1. Percentage of students who participated in the NDAA for English language arts during the _____ school year	
2. Percentage of students who participated in the NDAA for Mathematics during the _____ school year	
3. Total number of students who are anticipated to participate in the NDAA in grades 3-10 or 11 in the _____ school year (NDAA ELA and Math only)	
4. Total number of <b>ALL</b> students who are anticipated to participate in the <b>NDSA</b> (IEP and Non-IEP students), grades 3-8, 10 or 11 during the _____ school year (ELA/Math only)	
5. Total number of students who are anticipated to participate in the <b>NDSA and NDAA</b> during the _____ school year ( <i>number in box 3 plus number in box 4</i> )	
6. Percentage of students who are anticipated to participate in the NDAA during the _____ school year ( <i>number in box 3 divided by the number in box 5</i> )	

**1. Select one or more subject below and complete the justification information:**

- English Language Arts  
 Mathematics  
 Science

**2. Justification:**

Justification for exceeding the 1% cap is **REQUIRED**. If you select “Other,” you **MUST** manually enter the justification in the text box provided.

Our district is projected to exceed the 1% cap for participation of students taking the North Dakota Alternate Assessment is due to the:

- A) Small “N” size of the assessed population  
 B) District has disproportionate representation of students with significant cognitive disabilities do to unique programs  
 C) Both A & B  
 D) Other – if choosing ‘other,’ justification **MUST** be provided.  
Enter justification here:

**3. Assuring IEP Team Decisions (required):**

Provide a description of how the district is assuring that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams are adhering to the criteria as outlined in the Participation Guidelines ND in determining student eligibility for participation in the NDAA.

Information may include, but is not limited to:

- Ensuring that all educators who administer the NDAA meet requirements for test administrators including being trained to administer the NDAA.
- Reviewing the percentage of students participating in the NDAA in all grade bands. Are IEP teams making consistent participation decisions across grade levels?
- Reviewing the IEP team decision-making process. Are IEP team’s adhering to the recommended NDAA participation guidelines?

IEP Team Assurance (required):



Please complete the information and submit to Office of Assessment, NDDPI. The NDDPI Office of Special Education will review all justifications and each district will be notified in writing of the department's decision.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact: Office of Assessment at 701-328-1518.