## 2021 – 2022 Maryland Alternate Assessments Justification for Exceeding the 1% Participation Threshold

This data summary reflects each local school system (LSS) that **anticipates** exceeding the 1% threshold for the number of students participating in one or more of the alternate academic assessments and the justification for exceeding the threshold.

Local School System	Exceeds 1% participation in English Language Arts	Justification for Exceeding 1% Participation Threshold	Exceeds 1% participation in Mathematics	Justification for Exceeding 1% Participation Threshold	Exceeds 1% participation in Science	Justification for Exceeding 1% Participation Threshold
Allegany County	⊠Yes □No	The LEA anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for this assessed content. If yes, provide Justification: ACPS has a small overall student tested population per grade, and it takes only a few students participating in alternate assessment per grade (7 students) to exceed 1%. Currently ACPS exceeds 1% in grades 5, 8 and 11. ACPS has 97 Jess total test takers this year as compared to last year, without a reduction in students taking the alternate assessment. 14% of students in Allegany County receive special education services.	⊠Yes □No	The LEA anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for this assessed content. If yes, provide Justification: ACPS has a small overall student tested population per grade, and it takes only a few students participating in alternate assessment per grade (7 students) to exceed 1%. Currently ACPS exceeds 1% in grades 5, 8 and 11. ACPS has 97 Jess total test takers this year as compared to last year, without a reduction in students taking the alternate assessment. 14% of students in Allegany County receive special education services.	⊠Yes □No	The LEA anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for this assessed content. If yes, provide Justification: ACPS has a small overall student tested population per grade, and it takes only a few students participating in alternate assessment per grade (7 students) to exceed 1%. Currently ACPS exceeds 1% in grades 5, 8 and 11. ACPS has 97 Jess total test takers this year as compared to last year, without a reduction in students taking the alternate assessment. 14% of students in Allegany County receive special education services.
Anne Arundel County	⊠Yes □No	For the fall 2021 administration and in prior years, the percent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools students participating in the alternate assessment remained under 1% of the total tested population. While, the total number of students participating in the alternate assessment has remained relatively consistent (from 435 to 449), the total enrollment has decreased from 44635 to 41155: Increasing numbers of students with disabilities and high numbers of eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (From 7,958 in 2010 to 9612 in the October 2021 child count). The location of the LEA around community and health care organizations and facilities that provide educational day programs draws a significant number of students with significant cognitive disabilities and their families to Anne Arundel County. The location of military	⊠Yes□No	For the fall 2021 administration and in prior years, the percent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools students participating in the alternate assessment remained under 1% of the total tested population. While, the total number of students participating in the alternate assessment has remained relatively consistent (from 435 to 449), the total enrollment has decreased from 44635 to 41155: Increasing numbers of students with disabilities and high numbers of eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (From 7,958 in 2010 to 9612 in the October 2021 child count). The location of the LEA around community and health care organizations and facilities that provide educational day programs draws a significant number of students with significant cognitive disabilities and their families to Anne Arundel County. The location of military	□Yes ⊠No	For the fall 2021 administration and in prior years, the percent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools students participating in the alternate assessment remained under 1% of the total tested population. While, the total number of students participating in the alternate assessment has remained relatively consistent (from 435 to 449), the total enrollment has decreased from 44635 to 41155: Increasing numbers of students with disabilities and high numbers of eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (From 7,958 in 2010 to 9612 in the October 2021 child count). The location of the LEA around community and health care organizations and facilities that provide educational day programs draws a significant number of students with significant cognitive disabilities and their families to Anne Arundel County. The location of military installations that are known as "compassionate"

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		installations that are known as "compassionate		installations that are known as "compassionate		care" bases offering special education services,
		care" bases offering special education services,		care" bases offering special education services,		such as Fort Meade and the Naval Academy
		such as Fort Meade and the Naval Academy		such as Fort Meade and the Naval Academy		within Anne Arundel County, and other locations
		within Anne Arundel County, and other		within Anne Arundel County, and other		that are in close proximity to Anne Arundel
		locations that are in close proximity to Anne		locations that are in close proximity to Anne		County, such as Andrews Air Force Base draws a
		Arundel County, such as Andrews Air Force		Arundel County, such as Andrews Air Force		significant number of students with significant
		Base draws a significant number of students		Base draws a significant number of students		cognitive disabilities and their families to Anne
		with significant cognitive disabilities and their		with significant cognitive disabilities and their		Arundel County.
		families to Anne Arundel County.		families to Anne Arundel County.		
D 1: C:		Access and Availability of Specialized		Access and Availability of Specialized		Access and Availability of Specialized
Baltimore City	⊠Yes □No	Supports/Programs	⊠Yes □No	Supports/Programs	⊠Yes □No	Supports/Programs
		o Students with significant cognitive		<ul> <li>Students with significant cognitive</li> </ul>		Students with significant cognitive
		disabilities participate in specially		disabilities participate in specially		disabilities participate in specially
		designed instruction (SDI) within		designed instruction (SDI) within		designed instruction (SDI) within
		restrictive settings or disability-based		restrictive settings or disability-based		restrictive settings or disability-based
		programs which may emphasize		programs which may emphasize		programs which may emphasize
		participation in alternate academic		participation in alternate academic		participation in alternate academic
		assessments and/or reduced		assessments and/or reduced		assessments and/or reduced
		opportunities to access the general		opportunities to access the general		opportunities to access the general
		education curriculum.		education curriculum.		education curriculum.
		o Baltimore City is host to high incidence		<ul> <li>Baltimore City is host to high</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Baltimore City is host to high incidence</li> </ul>
		of community facilities and/or health		incidence of community facilities		of community facilities and/or health
		services providing residence to student		and/or health services providing		services providing residence to student
		with significant cognitive disabilities.		residence to student with significant		with significant cognitive disabilities.
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		cognitive disabilities.		
		High Incidence/ Percentage of Students with				High Incidence/ Percentage of Students with
		disabilities		High Incidence/ Percentage of Students with		disabilities
		Baltimore City Public Schools has a		disabilities		Baltimore City Public Schools has a
		high incidence of students with		Baltimore City Public Schools has a		high incidence of students with
		disabilities with a rate of 14.2%		high incidence of students with		disabilities with a rate of 14.2%
		exceeding the state average of 11.6%.		disabilities with a rate of 14.2%		exceeding the state average of 11.6%.
		o Families often relocate to Baltimore		exceeding the state average of 11.6%.		<ul> <li>Families often relocate to Baltimore City</li> </ul>
		City to access unique services and		<ul> <li>Families often relocate to Baltimore</li> </ul>		to access unique services and supports
		supports for students with significant		City to access unique services and		for students with significant cognitive
		cognitive disabilities such as highly		supports for students with significant		disabilities such as highly specialized or
		specialized or disability-based		cognitive disabilities such as highly		disability-based programs or supports
		programs or supports not offered in		specialized or disability-based		not offered in neighboring local districts.
		neighboring local districts.		programs or supports not offered in		not offered in neighboring local districts.
		neignooring rocal districts.		neighboring local districts.		IED Team Implementation and/or Darsonal
		IEP Team Implementation and/or Personal		noighboring focal districts.		IEP Team Implementation and/or Personal Training
		Training Training		IEP Team Implementation and/or Personal		Training
		State and local monitoring outcomes		Training		State and local monitoring outcomes demonstrate
						variability across the LSS related to
		demonstrate variability across the LSS related to implementation of MSDE		State and local monitoring outcomes  demonstrate variability agrees the LSS.		implementation of MSDE eligibility and
				demonstrate variability across the LSS		
		eligibility and participation guidelines		related to implementation of MSDE		

FOI LSS POSTING		for a student with a significant cognitive disability.		eligibility and participation guidelines for a student with a significant cognitive disability.		participation guidelines for a student with a significant cognitive disability.
Baltimore County	⊠Yes □No	Baltimore County Public Schools has experienced a consistent increase in the percentage of students with disabilities over the past five years. There has been a consistent increase in the percentage of students with complex learning profiles requiring extensive curriculum modifications, ongoing prompting and continuous integrated services and supports. Current enrollment data suggests the greatest increase occurred with students identified under Autism, Multiple Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities. While the intensity of needs has increased, professional learning and consistent expectations for school team members around the alternative assessment determination process is warranted.	⊠Yes □No	Baltimore County Public Schools has experienced a consistent increase in the percentage of students with disabilities over the past five years. There has been a consistent increase in the percentage of students with complex learning profiles requiring extensive curriculum modifications, ongoing prompting and continuous integrated services and supports. Current enrollment data suggests the greatest increase occurred with students identified under Autism, Multiple Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities. While the intensity of needs has increased, professional learning and consistent expectations for school team members around the alternative assessment determination process is warranted.	⊠Yes □No	Baltimore County Public Schools has experienced a consistent increase in the percentage of students with disabilities over the past five years. There has been a consistent increase in the percentage of students with complex learning profiles requiring extensive curriculum modifications, ongoing prompting and continuous integrated services and supports. Current enrollment data suggests the greatest increase occurred with students identified under Autism, Multiple Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities. While the intensity of needs has increased, professional learning and consistent expectations for school team members around the alternative assessment determination process is warranted.
Calvert County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Caroline County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Carroll County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		⊠Yes □No	Based on the student population in CCPS and the resulting number of assessed students, a single student can have a great impact on the 1.0% threshold. This is the case for the Science assessment in CCPS; 1.02% of the total assessed students are being assessed through the corresponding alternate assessment for Science. This is not the case for the English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments as a greater number of students are assessed in these areas compared to Science.
Cecil County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Charles County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Dorchester County	⊠Yes □No	1.09% of students within the local education agency are eligible for the alternate assessment. Due to DCPS being a small Due to DCPS being a district with a small student population, the number of students that would place the percent	⊠Yes □No	1.09% of students within the local education agency are eligible for the alternate assessment. Due to DCPS being a small Due to DCPS being a district with a small student population, the number of students that would place the percent of alternate assessment test takers over	⊠Yes □No	1.09% of students within the local education agency are eligible for the alternate assessment. Due to DCPS being a small Due to DCPS being a district with a small student population, the number of students that would place the percent

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		of alternate assessment test takers over the 1%		the 1% threshold would be a very small		of alternate assessment test takers over the 1%
		threshold would be a very small number.		number.		threshold would be a very small number.
Frederick County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Garrett County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Harford County	⊠Yes □No	Students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in SDI within restrictive settings, public-separate day school and regional autism programs, emphasizes participation in alternate academic assessments and/or reduced opportunities to access the general education curriculum.	□Yes ⊠No		⊠Yes □No	Students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in SDI within restrictive settings, public-separate day school and regional autism programs, emphasizes participation in alternate academic assessments and/or reduced opportunities to access the general education curriculum.
Howard County	⊠Yes □No	There has been a decline in the HCPSS's overall student population. During the global pandemic, when virtual learning occurred, students withdrew and were known to be continuing either in private settings or home school settings. This decrease in the overall population altered our base number. The number of students participating in alternative assessments remained consistent. This change put our percentage of students taking alternative assessments at 1.1%, .1% over the 1% threshold.	⊠Yes □No	There has been a decline in the HCPSS's overall student population. During the global pandemic, when virtual learning occurred, students withdrew and were known to be continuing either in private settings or home school settings. This decrease in the overall population altered our base number. The number of students participating in alternative assessments remained consistent. This change put our percentage of students taking alternative assessments at 1.1%, .1% over the 1% threshold.	⊠Yes □No	There has been a decline in the HCPSS's overall student population. During the global pandemic, when virtual learning occurred, students withdrew and were known to be continuing either in private settings or home school settings. This decrease in the overall population altered our base number. The number of students participating in alternative assessments remained consistent. This change put our percentage of students taking alternative assessments at 1.3%, .3% over the 1% threshold.
Kent County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Montgomery County	⊠Yes □No	MCPS provides a continuum of services to address the complex needs of students with disabilities with significant cognitive disabilities. As a result of the services provided for this student population, MCPS receives a significant number of families who move into Montgomery County from other LEAs in Maryland, other states, and internationally for their students to access these services. Over the past five years, SYs 2017-2022, MCPS has enrolled seventy students with significant cognitive disabilities who accessed these services. These students represent 6.6 percent of students eligible for the DLM Alternate Assessments in English, Mathematics, and Science.	⊠Yes □No	MCPS provides a continuum of services to address the complex needs of students with disabilities with significant cognitive disabilities. As a result of the services provided for this student population, MCPS receives a significant number of families who move into Montgomery County from other LEAs in Maryland, other states, and internationally for their students to access these services. Over the past five years, SYs 2017-2022, MCPS has enrolled seventy students with significant cognitive disabilities who accessed these services. These students represent 6.6 percent of students eligible for the DLM Alternate Assessments in English, Mathematics, and Science.	⊠Yes □No	MCPS provides a continuum of services to address the complex needs of students with disabilities with significant cognitive disabilities. As a result of the services provided for this student population, MCPS receives a significant number of families who move into Montgomery County from other LEAs in Maryland, other states, and internationally for their students to access these services. Over the past five years, SYs 2017-2022, MCPS has enrolled seventy students with significant cognitive disabilities who accessed these services. These students represent 6.6 percent of students eligible for the DLM Alternate Assessments in English, Mathematics, and Science.

In addition to the impact of move-in students, MCPS also needs to review its internal processes and procedures for the initial and ongoing identification of student eligible for the alternate assessments and instruction.

To support this work, MCPS will:

- O Conduct quarterly internal audits of the Alternate Assessment Eligibility data by school. Schools will receive feedback on their identification processes to address any procedural issues. This information also will inform the professional learning that will be provided to key stakeholders in the eligibility process.
- Provide professional learning on the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Process to school psychologists, elementary lead special education teachers, secondary special education department chairs, preschool parent educators, central office special education staff members, and schoolbased administrators, and all special educators new to MCPS.
- o Require the participation of a central office ALO team member at IEP meetings in which the initial consideration for eligibility for Alternate Assessment and Instruction on Alternate Standards will be discussed.
- Review and analyze MCPS Evidence
  of Learning achievement data in
  mathematics, Unique Learning Systems
  Benchmark Assessments in
  Mathematics, to determine the rate of
  learning and progress.
- Conduct quarterly internal audits of IEP meetings in which the Alternate Assessment/Instruction on Alternate Standards have been discussed to provide feedback to school-based teams on the appropriate completion of the

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- Review and analyze MCPS Evidence of Learning achievement data in mathematics, Unique Learning Systems Benchmark Assessments in Mathematics, to determine the rate of learning and progress.

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- Require the participation of a central office ALO team member at IEP meetings in which the initial consideration for eligibility for Alternate Assessment and Instruction on Alternate Standards will be discussed.
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Conduct quarterly internal audits of IEP meetings in which the Alternate Assessment/Instruction on Alternate Standards have been discussed to provide feedback to school-based teams on the appropriate completion of the participation page of the IEP, Appendix A, and Appendix C.

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Prince George's County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Queen Anne's County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
St. Mary's County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Somerset	⊠Yes □No	Somerset County anticipates exceeding the one percent threshold for the number of students participating in the ELA alternate academic assessments. Somerset County has a small population of students who participate in the ELA assessment. There are approximately 1341 students who would participate in the ELA this year. Currently there are 24 students who will take the corresponding alternate assessment in grades three through eight and high school. This equates to approximately 1.8%, down from 2.2% last year. Over the past couple of years, the Special Education Supervisors have been working to reduce the number of students who are taking the alternate assessment. Given the small population of test takers, even with a reduction in the number of students taking the alternate assessment in ELA, it is difficult to reduce our rate of assessing less than one percent.	⊠Yes □No	Somerset County anticipates exceeding the one percent threshold for the number of students participating in the ELA alternate academic assessments. Somerset County has a small population of students who participate in the ELA assessment. There are approximately 1341 students who would participate in the ELA this year. Currently there are 24 students who will take the corresponding alternate assessment in grades three through eight and high school. This equates to approximately 1.8%, down from 2.2% last year. Over the past couple of years, the Special Education Supervisors have been working to reduce the number of students who are taking the alternate assessment. Given the small population of test takers, even with a reduction in the number of students taking the alternate assessment in ELA, it is difficult to reduce our rate of assessing less than one percent.	⊠Yes □No	Somerset County anticipates exceeding the one percent threshold for the number of students participating in the ELA alternate academic assessments. Somerset County has a small population of students who participate in the ELA assessment. There are approximately 1341 students who would participate in the ELA this year. Currently there are 24 students who will take the corresponding alternate assessment in grades three through eight and high school. This equates to approximately 1.8%, down from 2.2% last year. Over the past couple of years, the Special Education Supervisors have been working to reduce the number of students who are taking the alternate assessment. Given the small population of test takers, even with a reduction in the number of students taking the alternate assessment in ELA, it is difficult to reduce our rate of assessing less than one percent.
Talbot County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Washington County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
Wicomico County	⊠Yes □No	In the fall of 2021, WCPS provided professional development to staff regarding new procedures impacting eligibility and participation of students in instruction using alternate standards and assessment aligned with alternate achievement standards. While the review of WCPS data shows the term most significant cognitive disability allows itself to be broadly interpreted by individual practitioners as the range of performance by students greatly differs	⊠Yes □No	In the fall of 2021, WCPS provided professional development to staff regarding new procedures impacting eligibility and participation of students in instruction using alternate standards and assessment aligned with alternate achievement standards. While the review of WCPS data shows the term most significant cognitive disability allows itself to be broadly interpreted by individual practitioners as the range of performance by	⊠Yes □No	In the fall of 2021, WCPS provided professional development to staff regarding new procedures impacting eligibility and participation of students in instruction using alternate standards and assessment aligned with alternate achievement standards. While the review of WCPS data shows the term most significant cognitive disability allows itself to be broadly interpreted by individual practitioners as the range of performance by students greatly differs and there

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		and there is not a set score that defines what the most significant cognitive disability should be. The interpretation of the IEP team members is based upon the identification of students whose challenges are pervasive and affect learning across all academic areas as well as independent functioning in the areas of community living, leisure and vocational activities. Overall, IEP teams are maximizing inclusive practices, accommodations and supplementary aids, services, and program modifications during IEP development to continue our decreasing trend of disproportionality as captured above.		students greatly differs and there is not a set score that defines what the most significant cognitive disability should be. The interpretation of the IEP team members is based upon the identification of students whose challenges are pervasive and affect learning across all academic areas as well as independent functioning in the areas of community living, leisure and vocational activities. Overall, IEP teams are maximizing inclusive practices, accommodations and supplementary aids, services, and program modifications during IEP development to continue our decreasing trend of disproportionality as captured above.		is not a set score that defines what the most significant cognitive disability should be. The interpretation of the IEP team members is based upon the identification of students whose challenges are pervasive and affect learning across all academic areas as well as independent functioning in the areas of community living, leisure and vocational activities. Overall, IEP teams are maximizing inclusive practices, accommodations and supplementary aids, services, and program modifications during IEP development to continue our decreasing trend of disproportionality as captured above.
Worcester County	□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No		□Yes ⊠No	
MD School for the Deaf	⊠Yes □No	The overall student enrollment in the LSS contributes to the likelihood that a relatively small number of students found eligible to participate in an alternate assessment would exceed 1.0 percent.  The LSS has a high incidence of students with disabilities with a rate of 100% exceeding the	⊠Yes □No	The overall student enrollment in the LSS contributes to the likelihood that a relatively small number of students found eligible to participate in an alternate assessment would exceed 1.0 percent.  The LSS has a high incidence of students with	⊠Yes □No	The overall student enrollment in the LSS contributes to the likelihood that a relatively small number of students found eligible to participate in an alternate assessment would exceed 1.0 percent.  The LSS has a high incidence of students with
		state average of 12.4%.		disabilities with a rate of 100% exceeding the state average of 12.4%.		disabilities with a rate of 100% exceeding the state average of 12.4%.
MD School for the Blind	⊠Yes □No	The Maryland School for the Blind {MSB} serves only students with disabilities who receive specially designed instruction through an Individualized Education Plan {IEP}. MSD does not serve a general education student population. Many of our students have multiple disabilities and, of that population, a high percentage of our students have significant cognitive disabilities as determined by the IEP team through data collection, analysis and the evaluation process.	⊠Yes □No	The Maryland School for the Blind {MSB} serves only students with disabilities who receive specially designed instruction through an Individualized Education Plan {IEP}. MSD does not serve a general education student population. Many of our students have multiple disabilities and, of that population, a high percentage of our students have significant cognitive disabilities as determined by the IEP team through data collection, analysis and the evaluation process.	⊠Yes □No	The Maryland School for the Blind {MSB} serves only students with disabilities who receive specially designed instruction through an Individualized Education Plan {IEP}. MSD does not serve a general education student population. Many of our students have multiple disabilities and, of that population, a high percentage of our students have significant cognitive disabilities as determined by the IEP team through data collection, analysis and the evaluation process.