

From: PL-ALL-PATTAN
To: PL-ALL-PATTAN@LISTS.PSU.EDU
Subject: Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold Justification
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:30:41 PM

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 9, 2019

PENN*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Charter School Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors

FROM: Carole L. Clancy, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) 1.0 Percent
Participation Threshold Justification

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 1.0 percent participation threshold requirements for local education agencies (LEAs) administering the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) for students with significant cognitive disabilities continues to be in effect for the 2019-20 school year. ESSA requires Pennsylvania to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject, using the alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, does not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of all students in the state assessed on the statewide assessments. In accordance with 34 CFR 200.6(c)(3), a State must require an LEA that assesses more than 1.0 percent of its 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. States must provide appropriate oversight of each LEA that is required to submit such a justification and must make the justification publicly available, provided that it does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

The PASA 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold Justification process has been updated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education (BSE) in accordance with the regulatory requirement under ESSA. If the LEA anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for the 2019-20 testing cycle, justification must be submitted to BSE by October 15, 2019. Please note the due date for the 2019-20 justification submission is earlier than previous years. Additionally, LEAs should be aware of the updates to the required submission process for the 2019-20 school year to include completion of the form and a survey submission:

1. If the LEA anticipates that more than 1.0 percent of students will participate in the 2019-20 PASA testing cycle, the LEA must complete the PASA 1.0 Percent

Participation Threshold Justification. The updated document can be accessed on the [PDE website](#).

2. Once the LEA has completed the 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold Justification, the contents of the document must be submitted to BSE by October 15, 2019, via [Survey Monkey](#). The survey is mandatory for all LEAs that anticipate exceeding the threshold and serves as LEA's formal submission of their justification to PDE.
3. The LEA must retain a copy of their completed justification form with the necessary signatures of assurance. The LEA must make their justification information publicly available, without disclosing any personally identifiable information about a student.
4. PDE will post a list of LEAs who anticipate exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold to the PDE website prior to the start of the testing window. Public requests to view specific LEA justifications will be referred to the contact person on the LEA's justification document.

The state cannot grant approval for an LEA to exceed the federally mandated 1.0 percent participation threshold. Any LEA that exceeds the threshold may be subject to further review by BSE.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to Lisa Hampe, BSE Special Education Adviser, at lihampe@pa.gov or 724.425.3000 or Lynda Lupp, Statewide Special Education Assessment Coordinator, at llupp@pattan.net or 800.441.3215 ext. 7233.