

2023-2024 Policies and Procedures: Escambia (Approved)

Section E: Participation in State and District Assessments

The school district administers districtwide assessments of academic student achievement.

- Yes
- No

History

If **yes**, include the name of each districtwide assessment and whether the assessment is administered to students on alternate academic achievement standards. If the districtwide assessment is not administered to students on alternate academic achievement standards, identify the corresponding alternate assessment. (If your school district uses a portfolio as a corresponding district alternate assessment, the data collected should be based on grade-level alternate academic achievement standards. For portfolios, indicate what information is being collected, how the information is being recorded, what type of scoring rubric is being used, and how the school district ensures that all teachers are collecting the same information and scoring the data the same way.)

Our district wide assessments are STAR360 and/or iReady in grades 3-8. Some students working on the FSAA may be assessed with this instrument if the IEP team believes teaching can be informed through information gleaned from this assessment. Our alternative academic standards district assessments include the curriculum-based progress monitoring within the adopted Unique Learning System (ULS) Curriculum and the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP). Our students on alternative academic standards are not assessed with a portfolio.

History

Parental Consent Documentation

In accordance with s. 1003.5715, F.S., and Rule 6A-6.0331(10), F.A.C., the school district may not proceed with a student’s instruction in access points and the administration of an alternate assessment without written and informed parental consent unless the school district documents reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent and the student’s parent has failed to respond or the school district obtains approval through a due process hearing. The school district shall obtain written parental consent for the actions described above on the Parental Consent Form – Instruction in Access Points – Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS) and Administration of the Statewide, Standardized Alternate Assessment, Form 313181

<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-14585>.

The school district certifies that it either obtains prior parental consent or due process approval for every student participating in the FAA program. If prior parental consent is not obtained, the school district certifies that it has documentation of reasonable efforts to obtain that approval and consent, or a final order from DOAH.

- Yes
- No

History

Percentage of Students on Alternate Assessment

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (which can be found at <https://www.ed.gov/essa>), limits the percentage of students that a state may assess with an AA-AAAS to no more than 1 percent of all assessed students in the grades assessed in a state for each subject.

While there is a limit on the percentage of students statewide who may participate in the AA-AAAS, there is no such limit among school districts; however, 34 C.F.R. § 200.6(c)(3)(ii) and (iv) require that a school district submit information justifying the need to assess more than one percent of its students in any subject with an AA-AAAS. The state must make that information publicly available, provided that such information does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

It is understood that school districts have unique circumstances that may contribute to a higher number of students who are in access courses and participating in the FAA program. The purpose of this justification is to ensure that school districts are cognizant of their current processes and procedures to ensure that an IEP team decision to place a student in access courses is in alignment with state requirements and is the most appropriate academic decision for the student.

What is your school district's 2022-23 participation percentage in the FAA in the following areas?

Reading

1.55

History

Mathematics

1.7

History

Science

1.49

History

Is the school district over one percent in any area?

- Yes
- No

History

The criteria for the following statement is outlined in s. 1008.22(3)(d), F.S., and Rule 6A-1.0943, F.A.C., and on the Checklist for Course and Assessment Participation, which can be found at <https://faa.fsassessments.org/-/media/project/client-portals/florida-alt/2023-2024-faa/manuals-and-guides/checklist-for-course-and-assessment-participation.pdf> for use in determining student eligibility for participation in the FAA program.

If the school district is over one percent in any area, please provide a description of how the school district is ensuring that IEP teams are adhering to the criteria (see above.)

If Yes

Training for IEP team members is an ongoing effort in the School District of Escambia County. Training focuses on the definition by which students meet the criteria for instruction in modified curriculum (access points) and evaluation via the FAA. The District ESE Department is monitoring the overall numbers of FAA participation as well as looking for patterns of decision making at any given school site which may indicate a need for further training.

History

Provide a justification, with supporting evidence, that identifies specific programs or circumstances within the school district that may contribute to higher enrollment of students in access courses that exceeds one percent (e.g., center schools serving surrounding school districts).

The School District of Escambia County offers some **Empowerment Scholarship** opportunities for a neighboring county for enrollment at a center school (Escambia Westgate) for students who are severely to profoundly disabled. This contributes to higher numbers of students who are assessed by the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment. Escambia County is the home to several military institutions, the largest of which is NAS Pensacola. Military families of students with disabilities are assigned to this location due to the availability of intensive special education and supports that may not be available at other duty stations. The School District of Escambia County has seen a trend which has nearly doubled the numbers of students eligible for services in disability preschool programs and in programs specifically for students with ASD. There has been a need to increase services specially designed for elementary students on the autism spectrum from three school sites to seven schools sites. The students receiving this intensive level of support are frequently students who require instruction on the access points level of the Florida Standards and assessment on the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment.

History

What is your school district's risk ratio for disproportionality in each content area for each subgroup?

ELA American Indian or Alaskan Native

.707124183

History

ELA Black, non-Hispanic

1.75

History

ELA Hispanic

| .69

[History](#)

ELA Asian or Pacific Islander

| 1.57

[History](#)

ELA White, non-Hispanic

| .728121866

[History](#)

ELA Economically Disadvantaged

| 1.45

[History](#)

ELA English Language Learner

| .079305776

[History](#)

Math American Indian or Alaskan Native

| 0.722879464

[History](#)

Math Black, non-Hispanic

| 1.85443861

History

Math Hispanic

| 0.707005826

History

Math Asian or Pacific Islander

| 1.192066226

History

Math White, non-Hispanic

| 0.6784546377

History

Math Economically Disadvantaged

| 1.45868107

History

Math English Language Learner

| 0.082293196

History

Science American Indian or Alaskan Native

| 0

[History](#)

Science Black, non-Hispanic

| 1.917562724

[History](#)

Science Hispanic

| 0.47516469

[History](#)

Science Asian or Pacific Islander

| 0.957749939

[History](#)

Science White, non-Hispanic

| 0.748212239

[History](#)

Science Economically Disadvantaged

| 2.087180588

[History](#)

Science English Language Learner

| 0

History

Social Studies American Indian or Alaskan Native

| NA

History

Social Studies Black, non-Hispanic

| NA

History

Social Studies Hispanic

| NA

History

Social Studies Asian or Pacific Islander

| NA

History

Social Studies White, non-Hispanic

| NA

History

Social Studies Economically Disadvantaged

NA

History

Social Studies English Language Learner

NA

History

If an identified risk ratio is 3 or above in any area, describe the school district's plan to address this disproportionality. This could include examining practices, such as the training and technical assistance provided to personnel on culturally responsive practices; working within a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to promote best practices in screening; progress monitoring; and initial eligibility determination. School districts may also refer to their efforts to decrease disproportionality in evaluation, identification and discipline if similar efforts are made in that area.

NA.

History

Rule 6A-1.0943, F.A.C., Statewide Assessment for Students with Disabilities

District-Specific Procedures

These are the criteria required for participation in the statewide, standardized alternate assessment as per Rule 6A-1.0943(5), F.A.C.:

Section A: The decision that a student with a significant cognitive disability will participate in the statewide, standardized alternate assessment as defined in Rule 6A-1.0943(5)(a), F.A.C., must be made by the IEP team and recorded on the IEP.

If the definition of "most significant cognitive disability" is not met according to the criteria set in Rule 6A-1.0943(1)(f)1., F.A.C., then complete Section E of this document, which satisfies Rule 6A-1.0943(1)(f)2., F.A.C.

Section B: The provisions regarding parental consent for participation in the statewide, standardized alternate assessment found in Rule 6A-6.0331(10), F.A.C., must be followed.

Section C: In order for a student to participate in the statewide, standardized alternate assessment, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. The student must receive exceptional student education (ESE) services as identified through a current IEP and be enrolled in the appropriate and aligned courses using alternate achievement standards for two consecutive full-time equivalent reporting periods prior to the assessment;

Evidence of criteria will be provided through the student's current IEP and student schedule.

2. The student must be receiving specially designed instruction, which provides unique instruction and intervention support that is determined, designed and delivered through a team approach, ensuring access to core instruction through the adaptation of content, methodology or delivery of instruction and exhibits very limited to no progress in the general

education curriculum standards;

Evidence of criteria will be provided through MTSS or response-to-intervention (Rtl) documentation.

3. The student must be receiving support through systematic, explicit and interactive small-group instruction focused on foundational skills in addition to instruction in the general education curriculum standards;

Evidence of criteria will be provided through MTSS or Rtl documentation.

4. Even after documented evidence of exhausting all appropriate and allowable instructional accommodations, the student requires modifications to the general education curriculum standards;

Evidence of criteria will be provided with _____ (the required IEP and school district documentation of services provided—accommodation logs, accommodation logs compared to classroom performance).

5. Even after documented evidence of accessing a variety of supplementary instructional materials, the student requires modifications to the general education curriculum standards;

Evidence of criteria will be provided with _____ (the required IEP and school district documentation of the provision of supplementary instructional materials—may be a summary from teacher, speech-language pathologist (SLP) or other service providers).

6. Even with documented evidence of the provision and use of assistive technology, the student requires modifications to the general education curriculum standards;

Evidence of criteria will be provided with _____ (the required IEP and school district documentation of the provision assistive technology services provided).

7. Even with direct instruction in all core academic areas (i.e., ELA, mathematics, social studies and science), the student is exhibiting limited or no progress on the general education curriculum standards, and requires modifications;

Evidence of criteria will be provided with _____ (the required IEP and school district documentation of the provision of supplementary instructional materials—may be a summary from teacher, SLP or other service providers).

8. Unless the student is a transfer student, the student must have been available and present for grade-level general education curriculum standards instruction for at least 70 percent of the school year prior to the assessment;

Evidence of criteria will be provided through the student's attendance report.

9. Unless the student is a transfer student, the student must have been instructed by a certified teacher for at least 80 percent of the school year prior to the assessment; and

Evidence of criteria will be provided through the teacher's certificate and teacher's attendance record.

10. The assessment instrument used to measure the student's global level of cognitive functioning was selected to limit the adverse impact of already-identified limitations and impairments (e.g., language acquisition, mode of communication, culture, hearing, vision, orthopedic functioning, hypersensitivities and distractibility).

Evidence of criteria will be provided through available evaluations, medical reports or screeners provided in the past.

11. The student has a most significant cognitive disability.

Section D: A student is not eligible to participate in the statewide, standardized alternate assessment if any of the following apply:

1. The student is identified as a student with a specific learning disability or as gifted;

Evidence of criteria will be provided through IEP and applicable evaluation results.

2. The student is identified only as a student eligible for services as a student who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a visual impairment, a dual sensory impairment, an emotional or behavioral disability, a language impairment, a speech impairment, or an orthopedic impairment; or

Evidence of criteria will be provided through IEP and applicable data.

- 3. The student scored a level 2 or above on a previous statewide, general education curriculum standardized assessment administered pursuant to Section 1008.22(3)(e), F.S., unless there is medical documentation that the student experienced a traumatic brain injury or other health-related complications subsequent to the administration of that assessment that led to the student having the most significantly below-average global cognitive impairment.

Evidence of criteria will be provided through statewide standard assessment results, if applicable.

Section E: In the extraordinary circumstance when a global, full-scale intelligent quotient score is unattainable, a school district will comply as follows:

More specifically, in the event when a student cannot be directly assessed, the student who has a suspected most significant cognitive disability for whom assessment via the FAA may be appropriate as defined in Rule 6A-1.0943(1)(f)1., F.A.C., will be identified through the following detailed procedure:

List the factors the school district will use to determine that a direct assessment of cognitive functioning is not achievable.

The following procedures will be attempted to ensure the opportunity for direct assessment of cognitive functioning for appropriateness of administration of the FAA:

- a. A direct assessment of cognitive functioning will be attempted with all students unless in rare circumstances it is determined professionally inappropriate. Attempts may include direct assessments across multiple dates.
- b. The District reserves the right to implement the professional judgment and expertise of the certified school psychologist (as defined by Florida Rule 6A-4.031). The school psychologist may abandon attempts to complete a direct assessment of cognitive functioning when the characteristics of the student prevent the appropriate participation in the assessment protocol or threaten the standardization/validity of assessment results. Key factors that may influence the decision to abandon the direct assessment may include:
 - i. Documented severe/profound communication deficits
 - ii. Documented severe/profound sensory deficits
 - iii. Documented severe/profound motor deficits
 - iv. Documented severe/profound behavioral deficits

History

Describe the assessment process the school district will use to determine if a student has a most significant cognitive disability in the absence of reliable direct assessment of cognitive functioning.

When objective direct assessment of cognitive functioning is unable to be obtained, the district will use the following tools to document evidence of significant cognitive disability:

- a. Subjective measures of cognitive functioning such as, but not limited to the Developmental Profile-4 (DP-4); Developmental Assessment for Children with Severe Disabilities (DASH-3); Developmental Assessment of Young Children-Second Edition (DAYC-2)
- b. Measures of adaptive functioning
- c. Review of academic achievement and progress monitoring tools
- d. Written observations across different environments by multiple professionals who may include: school psychologists, speech language pathologists, teachers, and/or other professionals with expertise regarding the student
- e. Results of intensive interventions and assistive technology used on a regular basis
- f. Results of implemented accommodations and modifications

History

Describe how the school district will train and monitor staff with compliance of the determination and assessment process.

Training:

- a. Procedures for when a student cannot be directly assessed will be documented in the District's Psychological Services Department Manual and reviewed/trained by Psychological Services and ESE compliance staff members annually.

Monitoring:

- b. A data collection field will be included into the Referral Log of the District's student information system to identify those students who were unable to be directly assessed. A review for items 1 and 2 of this procedure will be conducted for each event/occurrence.

History