

# Public Comment: Alternate Assessment 1 Percent Cap Waiver Request

1. MDE completed the following activities related to alternate assessment selection and the one percent cap during the 2020–2021 school year:
  - Reduced statewide participation in the alternate assessment by 0.1 percent or more.
  - Made Spring 2019 alternate assessment data available on the special education electronic monitoring system.
  - Provided universal professional development and technical assistance to special education administrators, teachers, related service providers, and parents.
  - Directed local education agency staff to an online, interactive decision-making tool to assist with appropriate assessment selection and curriculum alignment.

Please provide comment on the activities completed in 2020–2021 and suggestions for additional activities for the 2021–2022 school year.

2. The ESSA requires MDE to collect and submit justification for exceeding the one percent cap on alternative assessment. In 2020–2021, justification forms were collected electronically using Catamaran, an electronic IDEA compliance monitoring system. Technical assistance was provided to ISDs and member districts on how to submit data using Catamaran. Technical assistance recommendations were made and information shared between MDE and ISDs using Catamaran. Justification forms are available for review online: [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_28463-459598--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_28463-459598--,00.html).

Please provide comment on the use of Catamaran to meet justification requirements.

3. Given the lack of testing in Spring 2020 and lower overall participation in Spring 2021, there is less reliable statewide assessment data available to provide justification to MDE regarding assessment participation rates. In the 2020–2021 school year, projected rates were used in MDE’s application for the one percent cap waiver. For the 2021–2022 school year, the application requires MDE to provide 2021 pre-ID data or projected participation rates for Spring 2022 based on student IEP data. This data will:
  - Aid in the application to extend the U.S. Department of Education waiver for the 1 percent cap on participation in the alternate assessment, due January 13, 2022.
  - Provide current information on participation rates to districts. This information can help districts determine training needs and support the monitoring of participation rates.

Please provide comment on the use of pre-ID data or projected participation rates for Spring 2022, based on student IEP data.

4. The MDE's focus regarding participation in the alternate assessment (MI-Access) will remain:
  - Providing technical assistance needed for IEP teams to make decisions about the appropriate assessment for each and every student with a disability.
  - Determining technical assistance needed for IEP teams to target instruction to each student's unique needs, encourage high expectations for all students, and understand expectations regarding the use of state content standards and/or alternate content standards.

Please provide comment on MDE's focus regarding participation in the alternate assessment.