

## 2023-2024 Policies and Procedures: DeSoto (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.)

The district does administer the district-wide assessment of STAR (Renaissance) for all students in ELA and Math, including students on the alternate achievement standards. Students on the alternate achievement standards are also administered pre and post assessments through Teach Town's enCore for elementary and Unique Learning Systems for secondary.

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**

| 2.0

History

#### **Mathematics**

| 2.3

History

#### **Science**

| 1.9

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.)**

The School District of DeSoto County has developed an FAA Task Force which consists of the Director of ESE, district staffing specialists, and School Psychologist. The purpose of this task force is to review documentation and data that an IEP team is considering as sufficient to place a student on the FAA. When an IEP team is considering FAA for a student, the Director of ESE is notified and documentation for the student is sent to the committee. The committee will either agree that the information provided is sufficient to make an informed decision, or the team will request further documentation to justify it. The team is guided by the Assessment Participation Checklist, Assessment Planning Resource Guide for IEP teams, and the IEP Team Guide to Assessment for SWD. The district also completes a self-assessment for DOE via the FAA Assurances spreadsheet. During this self-assessment, the district reviews IEP's, psychological evaluations, parent consents, and student schedules to ensure students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are identified. The district does adhere to more than two standard deviations below the mean when determining the need for FAA. Assessment Participation Checklist embedded in PEER is also used to determine if a student will participate in the FAA. Thus, only students who are significantly cognitively disabled would be considered to participate in the FAA.

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 DeSoto County is a small, rural county. Over the past years, numerous students have transferred into the district on Access Points curriculum from surrounding counties. This will contribute to the increase of a higher enrollment of students exceeding the 1%. Another contributing factor is the increase in crime and drug-related arrests. According to the FDLE arrest data, DeSoto County has seen a steady rise in both areas. In 2017, the county had approximately 14% of all arrests drug related with a total of 1269 arrests. In 2018, it increased to 18% drug related with a total of 1445. Most recently in 2019, drug related arrests increased to 20% with a total of 1549 arrests. As the drug related arrests increase in DeSoto County, a potential increase in students with significant cognitive disabilities could be a result. Per the National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, the use of drugs during pregnancy can cause a child developmental delays and lifelong learning difficulties as it could have long lasting implications on brain structure and function. Although paternal exposure to drugs may not cause a direct affect to the child, if the father is a drug user, there is a greater risk of passing on viruses or diseases which could adversely affect the child as well.

History

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

**ELA American Indian or Alaskan Native**

10.1

History

**ELA Black, non-Hispanic**

| 1.9

[History](#)

**ELA Hispanic**

| 0.71

[History](#)

**ELA Asian or Pacific Islander**

| 0

[History](#)

**ELA White, non-Hispanic**

| 1.0

[History](#)

**ELA Economically Disadvantaged**

| 1.09

[History](#)

**ELA English Language Learner**

| 0.42

[History](#)

**Math American Indian or Alaskan Native**

| 7.41

[History](#)

**Math Black, non-Hispanic**

| 1.84

[History](#)

**Math Hispanic**

| 0.62

[History](#)

**Math Asian or Pacific Islander**

| 0

[History](#)

**Math White, non-Hispanic**

| 1.04

[History](#)

**Math Economically Disadvantaged**

| 0.95

[History](#)

**Math English Language Learner**

| 0.35

History

**Science American Indian or Alaskan Native**

| 14.2

History

**Science Black, non-Hispanic**

| 1.69

History

**Science Hispanic**

| 0.71

History

**Science Asian or Pacific Islander**

| 0

History

**Science White, non-Hispanic**

| 0.95

History

**Science Economically Disadvantaged**

| 0.85

History

**Science English Language Learner**

| 0.44

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.**

The area that is above the risk ratio of 3 is the race/category of American Indian/Native Alaskan. There are a total of 5 students in that group participating in the FSA/FSAA in the 22/23 school year in the school year and only 1 of those 5 students are taking the FSAA. Due to the very small number of students in the district identified in this ethnicity group, the one student provides a skewed, disproportion number.

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.**

Individuals that have a combination of significant language impairments and/or significant motor impairments. Individuals that won't respond to requests/instruction (have not developed joint attention). Individuals that have multiple sensory impairments. Individuals with behavior(s) that prevents/prohibits a response. Individuals who have had an unsuccessful attempt at directly assessing.

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.**

Assessment process will begin with review of records, observation, and collaboration with individuals on the student's current capabilities. Assessment to include developmental and/or assessment of independent functioning will be administered.

History

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

Any individual that completes evaluations and all Staffing Specialists will participate in targeted professional development on the factors the district will use to determine that a direct assessment of cognitive functioning is not achievable and on the alternative assessment measures that may be used. The ESE Director or designee will monitor compliance each time this process is used.

[History](#)