

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

Students in grades K-2 are administered Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Early Literacy, Reading, and Mathematics. Every student, including students on alternate achievement standards are provided multiple attempts to participate in the assessment.

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**

1.6

History

**Mathematics**

2

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.)**

Step 1. IEP teams use the Checklist for Course and Assessment Participation to determine if students with disabilities require modified curriculum and Florida Standards Alternate Assessment. If "YES" is checked for all three of the questions, then the student will be enrolled in access courses and the FAA will be used to evaluate the student's current academic achievement. Step 2. IEP teams decide if the student should be assessed using the FAA--Performance Task or the FAA--Datafolio. The FAA Datafolio is selected if students communicate primarily through cries, facial expression, eye gaze, and/or change in muscle tone that requires interpretation by listeners/observers; the student responds/reacts to sensory input BUT requires actual physical assistance to follow simple directions; the student exhibits reactions primarily to stimuli (i.e., student only communicates that he/she is hungry, tired, uncomfortable, sleepy). The parent/guardian must give signed consent (on the Parental Consent Form--Instruction in the State Standards Access Points Curriculum and Statewide, Standardized Alternate Assessment) to have their child instructed in Access Points and their child's achievement measured based on alternate academic achievement standards.

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).**

Of the twenty-four (24) students who were determined eligible by their IEP teams for Access Points curriculum and participation on the FAA, all met the criteria on the Checklist for Course and Assessment Participation and parent/guardian consent was secured on the Parental Consent Form--Instruction in the State Standards Access Points Curriculum and Statewide, Standardized Alternate Assessment. Twenty-two (22) of these students have an intellectual disability (InD). One (1) of these students have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with a significant cognitive disability and one (1) student with an Other Health Impairment (OHI) with a significant cognitive disability. We have specialized classes at each of our schools to meet the unique needs of these students and have a reputation for excellence that entices parents to enroll their students in our programs. Students from adjacent counties enroll in our programs.

History

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

**ELA American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**ELA Black, non-Hispanic**

2.55

History

**ELA Hispanic**

.89

History

**ELA Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**ELA White, non-Hispanic**

.73

History

**ELA Economically Disadvantaged**

1.08

History

**ELA English Language Learner**

0

History

**Math American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**Math Black, non-Hispanic**

2.03

History

**Math Hispanic**

.73

History

**Math Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**Math White, non-Hispanic**

.74

History

**Math Economically Disadvantaged**

1.5

History

**Math English Language Learner**

0

History

**Science American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**Science Black, non-Hispanic**

3.47

History

**Science Hispanic**

0

History

**Science Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**Science White, non-Hispanic**

.72

History

**Science Economically Disadvantaged**

5.93

History

**Science English Language Learner**

0

History

**Social Studies American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**Social Studies Black, non-Hispanic**

0

History

**Social Studies Hispanic**

0

History

**Social Studies Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**Social Studies White, non-Hispanic**

0

History

**Social Studies Economically Disadvantaged**

0

History

**Social Studies English Language Learner**

0

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 twenty-four (24) students who are determined eligible to participate in Access course standards and who subsequently participate in the FAA assessments are placed by IEP teams after careful consideration of all relevant factors. IEP teams ensure only students identified as having significant cognitive disabilities are eligible to participate in the FAA program. Once this is determined, parents and/or guardians of the student must give signed consent to have their child instructed in Access Points and their child's achievement measured based on alternate academic achievement standards. This process is followed at each student's annual IEP review. To further ensure student's are being instructed and assessed using the most appropriate standards and assessments, a spreadsheet is completed for each student on an annual basis showing the identified disability category supports a student's participation in the FAA program and documentation that the student is enrolled in the appropriate Access courses. In addition, data chat conversations have been held with FDOE/BEES staff to review Gulf County's data for compliance and to help ensure IEP teams are making appropriate decisions for students based on data and identified student need. This process will be followed annually in an attempt to address any identified disproportionality. Ongoing professional development will be provided to staffing specialists, ESE teachers, and service providers to help ensure students are evaluated with objectivity and without any bias to help further prevent any evidence of disproportionality.

## 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 (RtI) 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 RtI 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.

- 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.

- 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.**

- Proof of a reasonable attempt (protocol) for direct assessment of cognitive functioning to prove that a global, full-scale intelligence score is unattainable.
- The student may have accompanying communication, motor, sensory, or other impairments that may affect the ability to directly assess.

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.**

To be able to identify a student with a most significant cognitive disability when a global, full-scale intelligence quotient score is unattainable, the IEP team must review, consider, and discuss a variety of sources of information, including a developmental screening or profile, observations, any psychological assessments, any achievement test data, and curricular content for evidence of a significant cognitive disability. All information available pertaining to the cognitive abilities of the student must be documented and reviewed by the IEP team.

History

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

District School Psychologists, ESE Staffing Specialists, School Administrators, School Guidance Counselors, and any other relevant staff member will be trained on this procedure through the ESE Director. All considerations made concerning this provision of the rule will be monitored by the ESE Director.

History