

## 2023-2024 Policies and Procedures: Taylor (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 Taylor County School District currently uses STAR and iReady assessment as it's district wide assessment for progress monitoring. Students on alternate assessment take the Brigance Test 3 times per year to monitor progress.

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**

3.2

History

#### **Mathematics**

3.1

History

#### **Science**

2.7

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.)**

Each IEP team includes an ESE staffing specialist that has been trained accordingly to the criteria for participation in the FSAA. During this determination at the meetings, the staffing specialist informs the team of this criteria and the team carefully examines data including but not limited to the following... • psychological assessments • achievement test data • previous statewide assessment and district-wide test scores • aptitude tests • observations • attendance records • medical records • mental health assessments • adaptive behavior assessments • language assessments • curricular content • school history • student response to instructional intervention The IEP team considers the student's present level of educational performance in reference to the Florida Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. To facilitate informed and equitable decision-making, the IEP team answers each of the following questions when determining the appropriate course of instruction and assessment. 1. Does the student have a significant cognitive disability? 2. Even with appropriate and allowable instructional accommodations, assistive technology, or accessible instructional materials, does the student require modifications, as defined in Rule 6A-6.03411(1)(z), F.A.C., to the grade-level general state content standards pursuant to Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C.? 3. Does the student require direct instruction in academic areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, social studies, and science based on Access Points in order to acquire, generalize, and transfer skills across settings? All of these questions must be answered "Yes" for a student to be found eligible to take the alternate assessment.

#### 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).**

In reviewing overall student data and comparing the number of students in access courses/programs, we have determined potential contributing factors that include the following: Due to low overall student enrollment, small changes in student numbers result in large percentage increases. We observe that families move into our district through Open Enrollment to access our programs, and many of those students enter with active IEP's some of which include students on Access Points. Dynamics including subsidized housing, state department of correction facility and the Florida State Hospital also influence our population and subsequently our student need At least yearly, the ESE Supervisor, staffing specialists, and school psychologist take inventory of new referrals and reevaluations and look for trends towards disproportionality in the area of significant cognitive disability. If an area of concern is found, a data review is conducted to see if enough data was reviewed to make a well-informed decision. Pieces of training could be offered through FDLRS and ACCESS Projects to equip teams with strategies to prevent disproportionality, as well as cultural awareness training."

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**

1.05

History

**ELA Hispanic**

1.17

History

**ELA Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**ELA White, non-Hispanic**

.78

History

**ELA Economically Disadvantaged**

1.0

History

**ELA English Language Learner**

0

History

**Math American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**Math Black, non-Hispanic**

.97

History

**Math Hispanic**

1.29

History

**Math Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**Math White, non-Hispanic**

.92

History

**Math Economically Disadvantaged**

.69

History

**Math English Language Learner**

0

History

**Science American Indian or Alaskan Native**

0

History

**Science Black, non-Hispanic**

1.62

History

**Science Hispanic**

0

History

**Science Asian or Pacific Islander**

0

History

**Science White, non-Hispanic**

.75

History

**Science Economically Disadvantaged**

.31

History

**Science English Language Learner**

0

History

**Social Studies American Indian or Alaskan Native**

N/A

History

**Social Studies Black, non-Hispanic**

N/A

History

**Social Studies Hispanic**

N/A

History

**Social Studies Asian or Pacific Islander**

N/A

History

**Social Studies White, non-Hispanic**

N/A

History

**Social Studies Economically Disadvantaged**

N/A

History

**Social Studies English Language Learner**

N/A

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.**

Taylor County Schools is not disproportionate in any content area for each subgroup.

History

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 evaluator will attempt direct assessment. The factors the evaluator will consider include but are not limited to the following severe communication limitations, physical restrictions, and sensory and/or behavioral limitations which impair the students ability to participate in direct assessment.

#### 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.**

The evaluator will rely on the most updated version of the Developmental Profile assessment parent/teacher form, or a similar assessment, as well as anecdotal observation information. In addition, the evaluator will include anecdotal records within the psychoeducational report (e.g., health/medical information, assessment/classroom observations, teacher/caregiver report, previous evaluation data, ect.).

History

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

The District will train the compliance department and Staffing Specialists on the above procedures. In addition, the evaluators will be trained on the most updated Developmental Profile or similar assessment. When presented with the above scenario (inability to complete a cognitive assessment), the evaluators will adhere to Steps 1 and 2 of this procedure.

History