

### **2021-22 Alternate Assessment Justification**

*The following must be completed by districts that contribute to the state exceeding the 1% cap for students participating in the alternate assessment and will be posted on the department website upon receipt.*

District Name: Macon

|                         | % of<br>Alternative<br>Assessments<br>2017-18 | % of Alternate<br>Assessments<br>2018-19  | % of Alternate<br>Assessments<br>2020-21 | % of Alternate<br>Assessments<br>2021-22 | Projected % of<br>Alternate<br>Assessments<br>2022-23 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| MSAA<br>ELA             | 1.57%                                         | 1.49%                                     | 1.49%                                    | 1.71%                                    | 1.42%                                                 |
| MSAA<br>Math            | 1.58%                                         | 1.46%                                     | 1.46%                                    | 1.67%                                    | 1.40%                                                 |
| TCAP-<br>Alt<br>Science | 1.29%                                         | *Field test<br>year, no data<br>available | 1.29%                                    | 1.84%                                    | 1.71%                                                 |

1. **Eligibility Determination Process:** Describe the policies, training and supports in place to ensure IEP teams appropriately identify students for participation on the alternate assessments related to each of the three criteria. *Completing the form in EasyIEP is not sufficient justification. The description should include training or processes to ensure the IEP team is carefully considering both the student's data and the implication of participation in the alternate assessment.*
  - a. Criterion One: The student has a significant cognitive disability. Only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should be considered for the alternate assessment.
  - b. Criterion Two: The student is learning content linked to (derived from) state content standards.

- c. Criterion Three: The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in the grade- and age-appropriate curriculum.

**Eligibility Determination Process for Alternate Assessment is reviewed at each PD session provided to SPED teachers. Documentation of criteria is considered at IEP team meetings when making this decision.**

- 2. **Disproportionality:** Using your data by primary eligibility, describe your district data, including disproportionate participation on the alternate assessment and a plan for reducing/eliminating disproportionality.

**We have a high number of students with comprehensive needs in our district when compared to other districts our size. IEP case managers are reminded of the criteria at each PD session and follow guidelines when leading the team in discussion regarding which assessment is the least restrictive for our students. Our plan for reducing the number of Alternate Assessments continues to be informing our teachers and parents of eligibility requirements and implications of participation at IEP meetings, PDs, and parent meetings.**

- 3. **Informed Parent Participation:** Describe the process and practices used to adequately inform parents of the eligibility requirements and implications of participation to ensure active parent participate in the IEP team discussion.

**Parents are made aware of the eligibility requirements and implications of participation in the alternate assessment at IEP meetings and any parent meetings scheduled.**

- 4. **Support Requested:** Please detail any support needed from the department. (All reasonable requests for supports will be considered.)

**Assurance:** The district is committed to ensuring all students are participating in the most appropriate assessments. Students determined eligible for the alternate assessment will meet the three criteria.

Signed: Cathy Stafford

Date: 2/21/23