



2019-20 Alternate Assessment Participation Estimation Process

On March 23, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) waived some federal statewide assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-20 school year due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Administration of required statewide assessments was included in these waived requirements. Without student assessment outcomes, it is impossible to calculate participation in both the standard assessments (ACT, Forward) as well as the alternate assessment (DLM).

In June, [ED provided guidance](#) on how to approach ongoing work related to the 1% Threshold. Federal 1% Threshold reporting only requires states to report assessment participation rates for students in grades 3-8 and 11 for English language arts and mathematics, and grades 4, 8, and 11 for science. For statewide assessment participation rates for all students and students with disabilities, the 2018-19 rates are able to be resubmitted. Work related to the 1% Threshold at the LEA level was encouraged to continue. Since calculating a true alternate assessment participation rate is not possible without valid test outcomes, the rates must be estimated.

Test registration data were used to create a credible estimate of alternate assessment participation rates. For the standard assessments, DPI compiles lists of students based on grade level and submits to assessment vendors. For the alternate assessment, local education agencies (LEAs) provide student details about which students will be taking the alternate assessment. Rates of estimated participation in the alternate assessment at the district level for 2019-20 are based on data provided to DPI.

Caveats to note about the 2019-20 estimations:

- Submission of alternate assessment student roster data is subject to a higher likelihood of human error.
 - For example, students may not have been appropriately assigned for Science test participation.
- All estimated counts and percentages for ELA and mathematics are the same and reported together. Estimated participation for federal reporting for the science assessment is only based on students in grade 4, 8, and 11.