



Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment – 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold Justification

The Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) 1.0 Percent Participation Threshold Justification process was developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education (BSE) in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA requires Pennsylvania to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject using the PASA does not exceed one percent of the total number of all students in the state assessed on the statewide assessments.

ALL LEAs are required to submit justification information to BSE. LEAs who do not anticipate exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold will confirm their demographic information and anticipated percentage rate only, while those LEAs who anticipate exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold will be required to complete the entire justification survey. LEAs who anticipate exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold must also make their justification information publicly available removing any personally identifiable information.

A list of LEAs who anticipate exceeding the threshold will be made publicly available on the PDE website, in accordance with 34 CFR 200.6 (c)(3) regulations. Any LEA that exceeds the 1.0 percent threshold may be subject to further review by BSE.

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMISSION:

1. **All** LEAs must review their anticipated PASA percentage rate for the 2022-23 testing cycle and submit this information to BSE via the justification survey link.
2. All LEA Special Education Administrators will receive a customized survey link via email. Please do not share this link with others. The email will arrive no later than October 14, 2022. The LEA may bookmark or add this site to their favorites list in order to return to it at any time. Any LEA who does not receive the email message should check their spam folder and/or consult with their IT department to ensure the system firewall allows the email from Survey Monkey. The personalized survey link will allow the user to edit, save, and print their responses prior to final submission.
3. The survey serves as the LEAs formal submission to BSE. The deadline to submit the survey is **December 31, 2022**. Upon completion of the survey, the LEA will receive an electronic confirmation.

All LEAs must provide the following information:

1. Name of LEA (School Districts):
2. Name of LEA (Charter Schools):
3. Address of LEA:
4. LEA Contact Information (Name/Role/Email/Phone Number):
5. Total number of students enrolled in grades 3,4,5,6,7,8 and 11 for the 2022-23 school year. (Refer to enrollment data in PIMS):
6. Number of students enrolled or planning to participate in the PASA for the 2022-23 school year. The LEA must also include students placed with outside service providers or other educational entities in both the numerator and denominator:
7. Percentage of students who are anticipated to participate in the PASA. The calculation to determine the LEA's anticipated 1 percent participation is as follows:

Divide the total number of students who are anticipated to participate in the PASA by the total number of students in the LEA enrolled in the tested grade levels. Multiply the quotient by 100 to yield a percentage rate.

Anticipated percentage:

8. Does the LEA anticipate exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold of students who will participate in the PASA for the 2022-23 school year?

No – the LEA is not required to complete the remainder of the survey. Please submit questions 1-8 via the survey link above by the due date.

Yes – the LEA must complete the remainder of the survey and submit the complete justification via the survey link above by the due date.

The LEA must provide the following information *only if the LEA anticipates exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold for the 2022-23 testing cycle:*

9. Review the planned PASA participation data of each enrolled student by primary disability category. (Remember to include students the LEA may have placed with outside service providers). Provide the number of students projected to participate in the PASA by each Chapter 14 primary disability category below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Autism	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Disabilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf-Blind	<input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Impairment
<input type="checkbox"/> Deafness	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Impairment
<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech / Language Impairment
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability	

10. Does the LEA have students participating in the PASA with disability categories that are not typically eligible for the PASA? (Typically, students with a primary disability category of learning disability, emotional disturbance or speech/language impairment do not meet the definition of a significant cognitive disability.)

Yes

No

If the answer is 'yes', explain the LEA's inclusion of students with primary disabilities of Learning Disability, Emotional Disturbance or Speech/Language Impairment only on the PASA.

11. Does the LEA identify specific programs or circumstances within the LEA that may contribute to higher enrollments of students identified with significant cognitive disabilities that would result in a PASA participation rate in excess of 1.0 percent?

Yes

No

If the answer is 'Yes', the LEA must provide justification. Which programs/circumstances explain higher enrollments of students with significant cognitive disabilities? (Check all that apply.)

LEA is host to facilities or programs specifically for providing residence to students with significant cognitive disabilities.

LEA offers unique services for students with significant cognitive disabilities for which families often relocate in order to access these specific services (i.e type of highly specialized classroom or service that may not be offered in other local school districts/buildings.) If so, please describe how this program/service differs from the typical continuum of service options:

Other (please describe)

12. How is the LEA assuring that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams are adhering to the six criteria in determining student eligibility for participation in the PASA? The eligibility criteria can be accessed on the PDE, and PaTTAN websites. (Check all that apply.)

The IEP team answers 'yes' to all six PASA eligibility criteria using the "PASA Eligibility Decision Making Companion Tool".

The IEP team documents the decision for a student to participate in the PASA in section IV of the IEP, indicating all six of the PASA eligibility criteria have been met.

The Special Education Administrator ensures that necessary training and updates on PASA eligibility are shared with relevant staff members on an ongoing basis.

The IEP team does not base the decision for a student to participate in the PASA on administrative convenience, or the thought that the student may not perform well on the general assessment.

Other (please describe)

13. Does a small overall student enrollment in the LEA contribute to the likelihood that even a small number of students found eligible to participate in the PASA would result in a participation rate in excess of 1.0 percent? (Small enrollment is defined as less than 100 total students in the tested grades.)

Yes

No

14. Provide any additional justification of variables not already noted above that may contribute to higher numbers of students being deemed eligible for participation in the PASA that would result in a PASA participation rate in excess of 1.0 percent. (Enter N/A if not applicable.)

The content and data in this document represent the LEA's justification for exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold on student participation in the PASA for the 2022-23 school year. It is understood that the State is not authorized to grant approval for an LEA to exceed the federally mandated 1.0 percent threshold. Any LEA that exceeds the 1.0 percent threshold on student participation in the alternate assessment may be subject to additional review by the PA Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Questions may be directed to Lisa Hampe at lihampe@pa.gov or Lynda Lupp at llupp@pattan.net.

*(LEA signature)

*(Superintendent/ Chief School Administrator signature)

*Original signatures should be kept on file at the LEA.