September 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO:   City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Eric G. Mackey
      State Superintendent of Education
RE:   One Percent (1%) Threshold on Alternate Assessments

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject using an alternate assessment (for a student with a significant cognitive disability) does not exceed one percent (1%) of the total number of students in the state assessed with statewide assessments. In Alabama, the definition of a student with the most significant cognitive disability is a student with an intelligence quotient (IQ) of three standard deviations below the mean which is an IQ score of 55 or below that significantly impacts intellectual functioning and that exists concurrently with deficits in adaptive functioning (defined as essential for someone to live independently and to function safely in daily life). [AAC 290-4-2-.03]

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has compiled district data on the previous years’ participation rates in each subject of the Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA). The ALSDE will notify the superintendent of each school system that has exceeded the one percent (1%) participation in one or more subjects on the AAA for the 2018-2019 academic year no later than September 27, 2019. Each local education agency will be required to provide proof of training on the decision-making process of those who serve on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team and justification for exceeding the one percent (1%) threshold.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Maggie Hicks, Student Assessment, at 334-694-4817 or by email at mhhicks@alsde.edu.

EGM/MH

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