State of Alabama
Department of Education
Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent
of Education

Media Advisory:

Contact: Communications
(334) 242-9950
comm@alsde.edu

Public Comment Sought for Waiver Request
Pursuant to 34 C.F.R §200.6(c)(4)
One Percent (1%) Cap on Alternate Assessment Participation

The *Every Students 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 Alabama statewide assessments. ESSA also places a 1% cap on the state participation rate for each content area of the alternate assessment. The 1% cap is based on the total number of all students in the state assessed in each content area. States are required to seek a waiver of this cap if it is anticipated that the state will exceed the 1% cap.

For 2016-2017, Alabama’s participation rate on the Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA) was 1.21% for reading, 1.21% for math, and 1.23% for science. Alabama exceeded the 1% cap for the 2016-2017 school year and is anticipating exceeding the 1% cap for 2017-2018 school year; therefore, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will be
requesting a waiver for reading, math, and science from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. The ALSDE is seeking public comment as part of this process.

You may send written comments on the request for a waiver to: Student Assessment, Alabama State Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101. Mrs. Nannette Pence or Mrs. Maggie Hicks may be reached by phone at 334-242-8038, by fax at 334-242-7341, or through email at studentassessment@alsde.edu. Written comments will be accepted until June 15, 2018.

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Gordon Persons Building • P.O. Box 302101 • Montgomery, AL 36130
Telephone (334)242-9700 • Fax (334)242-9708 • Web site: www.alsde.edu

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