

# Kentucky Department of Education

## April 2018

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires Kentucky to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject using the Kentucky alternate assessment does not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of all students participating in the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP). States that anticipate exceeding 1.0 percent in alternate assessment participation must submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education 90 days before the beginning of the alternate assessment testing window. Kentucky's alternate assessment participation rate is approximately 1.3 percent.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each district or community school to submit a justification annually, if the district anticipates alternate assessment participation rates will be greater than 1% in one or more subject areas.

The 2016-2017 assessment data was used to identify any district with an alternate assessment participation rate greater than 1% in one or more subject areas. KDE's Division of Learning Services (DLS) identified 170 districts and requested written assurances that all Individual Education Program (IEP) Teams, known in Kentucky as an Admissions and Release Committee (ARC), are following the Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines when making assessment participation decisions. The KDE also required identified districts to submit information justifying the need to exceed the 1.0 percent threshold.

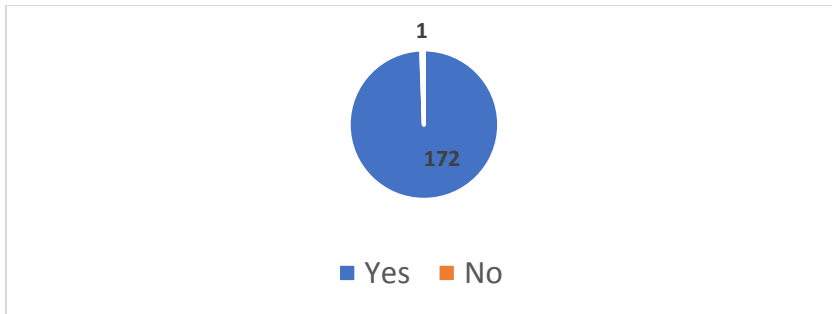
The following data includes the 170 districts identified as exceeding the 1% participation rate and districts that anticipate exceeding 1% participation rate.

If you have any questions about the 1.0 percent justification responses, please contact the Kentucky Department of Education at 502-564-4970 or email [KDE Alternate Assessment Inbox](#).

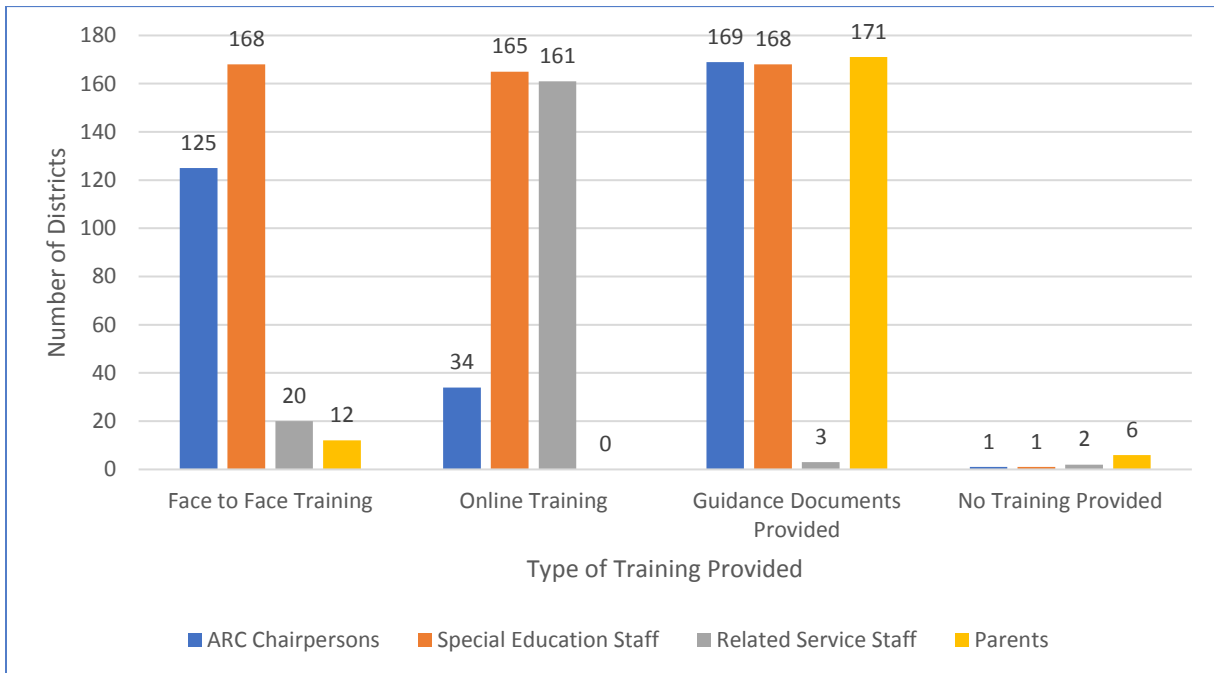
For more information on the ESSA requirements for a state waiver request, please visit the [U. S. Department of Education ESSA page](#).

## Questions and Response Results

Question: Did you utilize the alternate assessment participation guidelines to make assessment participation decisions, as required by 707 KAR 1:320, Section 5 (11)?



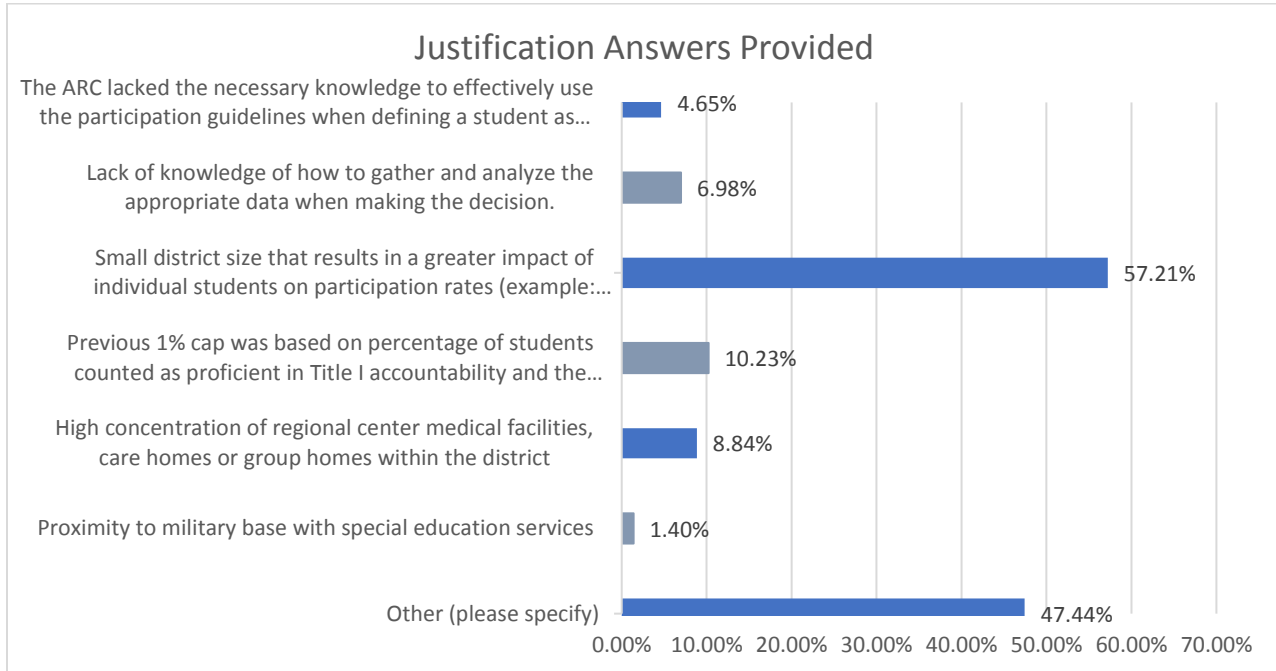
Question: How have all members of the Admissions and Release Committee been informed or trained on the alternate assessment participation guidelines?



\*Some districts provide training in multiple formats

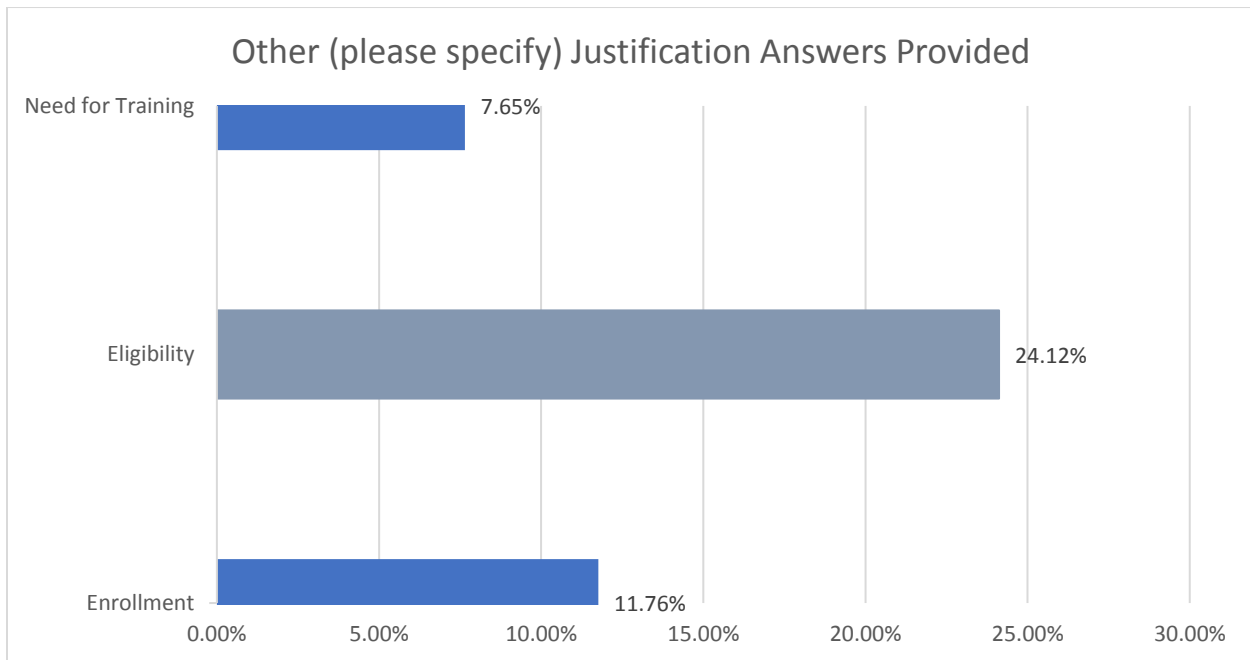
	ARC Chairpersons	Special Education Staff	Related Service Staff	Parents
Face to Face Training	125	168	20	12
Online Training	34	165	161	0
Guidance Documents Given	169	168	3	171
No Training Given	1	1	2	6

Question: Please identify any factors justifying your district exceeding 1 percent of your student population, who are students with significant cognitive disabilities, participating in the KY Alternate Assessment: (select at least one and all that apply)



	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
The ARC lacked the necessary knowledge to effectively use the participation guidelines when defining a student as having a significant cognitive disability.	10	4.65%
Lack of knowledge of how to gather and analyze the appropriate data when making the decision.	15	6.98%
Small district size that results in a greater impact of individual students on participation rates (example: district size 180 students with 2 students with significant cognitive disabilities results in higher than 1% participation rate)	123	57.21%
Previous 1% cap was based on percentage of students counted as proficient in Title I accountability and the new 1% cap is strictly based on percentage of students participating in the alternate assessment, regardless of score.	22	10.23%
High concentration of regional center medical facilities, care homes or group homes within the district	19	8.84%
Proximity to military base with special education services	3	1.40%
Other (please specify)*	102	47.44%

\*Other justifications that were provided by districts are listed below



Other (please specify) Justification Answers Provided - Common Themes	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Enrollment	20	11.76%
Eligibility	41	24.12%
Need for Training	13	7.65%

### Enrollment

- Decrease in overall student enrollment in over the last few years
- Non-resident students are open enrolled into the district
- Transient pupil population i.e. students who have been enrolled in multiple schools per school year, students enrolling from group homes and medical facilities
- Higher enrollment of students with moderate to severe disabilities population because more specialized programs and resources are available in the district.
- District has not exceeded 1% participation, but anticipates it may exceed in the future

### Eligibility

- 1% cap calculation based on each subject area as opposed to an overall population participation affected the numbers
- High number of eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities

### Need for Training

- Socio-economic issues i.e. low poverty levels, high levels of substance abuse
- District misinterpretation of the participation criterion required for alternate assessment