



Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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November 1, 2021

Mr. Patrick Rooney  
Director, School Support and Accountability Programs  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Mr. Curtis J. Kinnard, Ed.D.  
U.S Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Rooney and Dr. Kinnard:

Pursuant to [34 CFR §200.6 \(c\)\(4\)](#), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) submitted the [Kentucky Request to Extend the 1.0% Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver](#) to the United States Department of Education (USED). In the submission, the KDE requested approval to extend our 1.0% Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver for all subject areas for the 2021-2022 school year.

Due to the requirement that states submit a waiver extension request at least 90 days prior to the start of the testing window for the alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS), there was insufficient time to calculate final participation data and disproportionality data from the 2020-2021 school year assessment before the deadline for submission. The KDE's request to extend its waiver included preliminary data from Kentucky's statewide assessment for the 2020-2021 school year. The final assessment data is now publicly available on the [Open House](#) website and on the [Kentucky School Report Card](#).

As anticipated, the final assessment data indicates participation in the subject areas of reading, math and science have exceeded, for the 2020-2021 school year, the 1.0% threshold outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This addendum provides final AA-AAAS participation and disproportionality data for the 2020-2021 school year.

Table 1 displays AA-AAAS participation by subject area for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Table 1:** 2020-2021 School Year AA-AAAS Participation by Subject

SUBJECT	NUMBER PARTICIPATING IN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT	NUMBER PARTICIPATING IN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT	PERCENT PARTICIPATING IN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT
Reading (elementary/middle/high)	3,807	346,215	1.10%
Math (elementary/middle/high)	3,806	346,184	1.10%
Science (elementary/middle)	1,609	146,711	1.10%

[Attachment One](#) includes the number and percentage of all students, including each subgroup of students, who participated in the AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year by subject area.

The U.S. Department of Education granted Kentucky a [waiver of statewide assessment, accountability and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) for the 2019-2020 school year](#) due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This approval allowed flexibility by adjusting the Academic Achievement indicator based on a participation rate below 95.0%. Due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Kentucky allowed for content based testing exemptions for all state assessments, which impacted assessment participation rates. Therefore, the KDE is requesting approval to waive the 95.0% participation rate requirement for the AA-AAAS. Table Two demonstrates the percentage of all students assessed, including students with disabilities, during the 2020-2021 school year.

**Table 2:** 2020-2021 School Year Overall Statewide, Assessed by Subject

SUBJECT	ENROLLED	ASSESSED	PERCENT ASSESSED
Reading/Language Arts – All Students Total Grades 3-8 and High School (HS)	347,200	294,731	84.9%
Reading/Language Arts – <b>Students with Disabilities (SWD)</b> Total Grades 3-8 and HS	49,731	41,694	83.8%
Math – All Students Total Grades 3-8 and HS	347,192	294,294	84.8%
Math - <b>SWD</b> Total Grades 3-8 and HS	49,728	41,601	83.7%
Science – All Students Total Grades 3-8 and HS	147,126	120,646	82.0%
Science - <b>SWD</b> Total Grades 3-8 and HS	19,810	16,169	81.6%

After secure administration of the state assessments, the KDE reviewed data from the 2020-2021 school year with a focus on disproportionality. Students eligible for free and reduced meals exceeded the 2.0 threshold in all subject areas of the AA-AAAS. Table Three includes disproportionality data based on 2020-2021 school year final assessment participation data.

**Table Three:** 2020-2021 School Year - Disproportionality of Students Participating in AA-AAAS by Subgroup and Subject Area

<b>SUB-GROUP DISPROPORTIONALITY</b>	<b>READING/ LANGUAGE ARTS</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>
White Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.02	1.02	0.96
African American Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.25	1.26	1.48
Hispanic Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.71	0.70	0.70
Asian Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.86	0.85	0.94
American Indian/Alaskan Native Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.13	1.13	1.29
Pacific Islander Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.72	0.71	0.00
Students of Two or More Races Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.98	0.99	0.86
Free or Reduced Eligible Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	2.64	2.64	2.77
English Learners Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.20	1.16	1.27
Migrant Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.36	0.35	0.48
Homeless Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.28	1.28	1.35
Male Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.94	1.94	1.91
Female Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	0.51	0.51	0.49
White Students Participating in <b>AA-AAAS</b>	1.02	1.02	0.96

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The KDE has satisfied all requirements and included documentation outlined in [34 CFR §200.6\(c\)\(4\)\(a\) through \(iv\)](#) in the waiver request submitted on August 17, 2021. The KDE has provided final assessment participation and disproportionality data for the 2020-2021 school year, as indicated in the original waiver request.

Please contact Sylvia Starkey at [sylvia.starkey@education.ky.gov](mailto:sylvia.starkey@education.ky.gov) or (502) 564-4970, ext. 4118, to discuss this addendum to the KDE request to extend Kentucky's participation waiver. We look forward to working with ED staff to achieve a positive response to the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason E. Glass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner

**Attachment One: 2020-2021 School Year AA-AAAS Participation by Subgroup and Subject**

<b>Reading Grades 3 8 and High School (HS)</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>	<b># Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>	<b>% Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>
All Students	346,215	3,807	1.10%
White	256,905	2,880	1.12%
Black	37,770	458	1.21%
Hispanic/Latino	27,835	227	0.82%
Asian	6,357	66	1.04%
American Indian/Alaska Native	428	4	0.93%
Pacific Islander	508	3	0.59%
Two or More Races	16,280	163	1.00%
Economically Disadvantaged	211,051	3,016	1.43%
English Learner	15,747	206	1.31%
Migrant	1,781	6	0.34%
Homeless	9,528	128	1.34%

<b>Math Grades 3 8 and High School (HS)</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>	<b># Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>	<b>% Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021</b>
All Students	346,184	3,806	1.10%
White	256,867	2,879	1.12%
Black	37,757	458	1.21%
Hispanic/Latino	27,852	227	0.82%
Asian	6,363	66	1.04%
American Indian/Alaska Native	428	4	0.93%
Pacific Islander	509	3	0.59%

Math Grades 3 8 and High School (HS)			
Group	Total Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021	# Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021	% Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021
Two or More Races	16,276	163	1.00%
Economically Disadvantaged	211,016	3,015	1.43%
English Learner	15,776	206	1.31%
Migrant	1,781	6	0.34%
Homeless	9,530	128	1.34%

Science Grades 3 8 and High School (HS)			
Group	Total Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021	# Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021	% Taking State ELA AA AAAS Grades 3-8 and HS SY 2020-2021
All Students	146,711	1,609	1.10%
White	109,874	1,212	1.10%
Black	15,816	215	1.36%
Hispanic/Latino	11,481	87	0.76%
Asian	2,767	32	1.16%
American Indian/Alaska Native	182	2	1.10%
Pacific Islander	220	0	0.00%
Two or More Races	6,307	59	0.94%
Economically Disadvantaged	86,408	1269	1.47%
English Learner	6,362	83	1.30%
Migrant	667	3	0.45%
Homeless	3,847	48	1.25%