PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
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April 7, 2021

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Catherine Edmonds, Deputy Superintendent
Office of Equity

Tammy L. Howard, Director
Accountability Services Division

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS' MODIFIED ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM OPTIONS 2021–22

This memo provides information on participating in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System for the 2021–22 school year. The decision to participate must be filed with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Accountability Services Division by August 1, 2021. The State Board of Education policy ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314) applies to all alternative schools, including charter schools approved to use the alternative accountability system (16 NCAC 06G .0519); Developmental Day Centers; and schools providing special education and related services in public separate settings to students with disabilities.

The alternative accountability system is a supplement to School Performance Grades (SPG) as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15. It is not a substitute for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements. Thus, alternative schools and other eligible schools participating in the modified system using Options B or C will also have a SPG calculated if there is sufficient data for federal identifications. The SPG is used to identify these schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) as defined in the ESSA state plan. The designation of performance, as defined in ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314), will be the designation displayed on the NC School Report Card and SPGs will not be used to determine low-performing school or low-performing district statuses.

Alternative School Modified Accountability System Option Determination

Schools participating in modified system must annually submit their request. Schools may change the option from the prior year and are encouraged to review their previous selection. Charter schools submitting a request to participate must be approved to use the modified system in accordance with State Board of Education (SBE) Policy CHTR-020 (16 NCAC 06G .0518). As a reminder, local boards must approve the request at an official board meeting prior to submission to the SBE.

The current system allows eligible schools to participate in one of three Options, Option A, Option B, or Option C:

Option A. Alternative schools can participate in School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15, **or**

Option B. Alternative schools electing to participate in this Option shall be evaluated as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, attached below, **or**

Option C. Alternative schools electing to participate in this Option shall propose modifications to the accountability system for approval by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall approve proposed modifications to the system if a preponderance of the evidence proves that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures of the achievement and growth of the school's students.

Option C requests must include an attachment of the proposed modifications that outlines the valid and reliable measures used to track the achievement and growth of students. These requests to participate in Option C must be submitted annually to the State Board of Education for approval at its October meeting. Once approved, a letter will be sent to the LEA/charter school with additional guidance regarding reporting outcomes from the proposed modified system.

Developmental Day Centers and schools providing special education and related services, as noted above, may select from Options B or C. The Exceptional Children Division and the Accountability Services Division will review the eligibility criteria of these schools and must approve their use of the alternative accountability modified system.

Local boards of education and charter school boards must approve the option of each identified school under their jurisdiction will follow for participation in the modified system. For the 2021–22 school year, local boards must report this decision to the NCDPI's Division of Accountability Services by **August 1, 2021**.

Alternative School Insufficient Data Options Under ESSA

For all schools participating in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System, one of the following two options must be selected for the calculation of a SPG, under ESSA, in the event the school does not have sufficient data to determine a SPG using current year data:

a. **Return Scores** - All data is returned to base (sending) schools within the local education agency (LEA). The alternative school, or other eligible school, is given the letter grade of the school where the highest percentage of students are sent back (this option does not apply to charter schools); **or**
b. **Three Years** - Use three (3) years of data to calculate the letter grade for the school.

Insufficient data option determinations must also be approved by the local or charter school board for each school under their jurisdiction. This decision must be reported to the NCDPI's

Division of Accountability Services by **August 1, 2021.** All alternative or other eligible schools, as specified in ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314), must have an insufficient data option determination, even if there is the likelihood the school will have sufficient data.

Attached resources include (1) a description of the three Options to participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System and (2) the form that LEAs/charter schools must use to report the options selected for their school(s). Please complete and submit the attached form with the appropriate signatures. For schools electing to participate in Option C, attach the school's proposed modifications including evidence that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures.

All completed and signed forms with any attachments must be emailed to the attention of Ozella Wiggins at ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov by August 1, 2021. **This deadline is cited in North Carolina Administrative Code and must be met.** If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

CE:TLH:ODW

c: Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent
Sherry H. Thomas, Director, Exceptional Children
Dave Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools
James Ellerbe, Director, Innovative School District & Alternative Schools
Shannon Jordan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations
Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting
Regional Accountability Coordinators
LEA/Charter Test Coordinators

Attachment

2021–22 Alternative School's Modified Accountability System Participation

To participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System, local boards must determine the option for each school eligible to be included in the modified system. If no option is selected, eligible schools will participate in the School Performance Grades (Option A) and will be placed in the 3-years insufficient data option.

LEA/Charter Name: Montgomery County Schools **LEA/Charter Number:** 620

List the alternative school(s) and the options determined by the local board. Complete **each column** in the table below.

School Name	School Code	Alternative School Accountability	Insufficient Data Option
Montgomery Learning Academy	310	☐Option A ☒Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☒Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years

* For schools selecting Option C, attach the school's proposed modifications, including evidence of the validity and reliability of the measures proposed.

Sign and date below:

LEA Superintendent/Charter School Director

Print Name	Signature	Date

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator

Print Name	Signature	Date

This document must be signed and emailed to the attention of Ozella Wiggins at ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov no later than **August 1, 2021**. This deadline is cited in North Carolina Administrative Code and must be met.

2021–22 Alternative School's Modified Accountability System Participation

Public school unit boards shall determine the option that each alternative school in their jurisdiction will follow for participation in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System.

There are three ways to participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System:

Option A. Alternative schools can participate in School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15, **or**

Option B. Alternative schools electing to participate in the system as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, **or**

Option C. The alternative school may propose modifications to the system for approval by the State Board of Education.

Option A: Participation in the modified system, using School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15.

Option B: Participation in the modified system, evaluated as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, as follows:

The components used in the overall school score shall be:

(1) Student Persistence (20%) - Student Persistence is defined as the percent of alternative students who remain enrolled in any North Carolina public school through the end of the school year.

(2) School Achievement (20%)
  (a) The School Achievement component uses the following indicators:
    (1) End-of-Grade (EOG) Reading and Mathematics Assessments at Grades 3–8
    (2) EOG Science Assessments at Grades 5 and 8
    (3) End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments in Biology, NC Math 1, NC Math 3 and English II
    (4) ACT®
    (5) ACT WorkKeys
    (6) 4-Year Graduation Rate
    (7) 5-Year Graduation Rate
    (8) Math Course Rigor
  (b) Three (3) years of data will be used for calculating school achievement.

(3) Growth (60%) - Growth will be calculated using EVAAS.

A change rating will be assigned to schools comparing their previous year to the current year.

(1) Progressing – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by at least +3 points.

(2) Maintaining – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by -2.9 to +2.9 points.

(3) Declining – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by at least -3 points.

Option C: Participation in the modified system, proposing modifications to the accountability system for approval by the State Board of Education.

(1) Proposed modifications must show a preponderance of evidence proves that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures of achievement and growth of the school's students.
  (a) Schools may elect to use their data to assign themselves a designation; however, designations cannot mirror those already used in school accountability reporting.

(2) A request to participate in Option C, including a detailed description of the proposed modifications with evidence of validity and reliability, must be submitted annually to the SBE for approval at its October meeting.
  (a) If approved, the school must submit a final report on how the modifications improved performance of the school's students for posting publicly. Additional guidance on the reporting requirements will be provided after approval.