PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent
Office of Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

Tammy L. Howard, Director
Division of Accountability Services

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL OPTIONS 2020–21

This memo provides information on participating in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model (ASAM) for the 2020–21 school year. The decision to participate must be filed with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Accountability Services Division by August 1, 2020. The State Board of Education policy ACCT-038 applies to all alternative schools, including charter schools approved to use the alternative accountability model; Developmental Day Centers; and schools providing special education and related services in public separate settings to students with disabilities who are significantly cognitively delayed, have multiple handicapping conditions, and may also have significant behavioral or sensory integration needs.

The alternative accountability model 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 ASAM 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, will be the designation displayed on the NC School Report Card and SPGs will not be included in low-performing school or low-performing district determination.

NC Alternative Accountability Model Option Determination

Schools participating in ASAM must annually submit their request. Schools may change the option from the prior year and are encouraged to review their previous selections. Charter schools submitting a request to participate must be approved to use the ASAM in accordance with SBE Policy CHTR-020. As a reminder, local boards must approve the request at an official board meeting prior to submission to the SBE.

The current ASAM allows eligible schools to participate in one of three ways:

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

Option B: Alternative schools may participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, **or**
Option C: An alternative school may propose its own alternative accountability model for approval by the SBE.

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 model.

Local boards of education and charter school boards must approve the option each identified school under their jurisdiction will follow for participation in the ASAM. For the 2020–21 school year, local boards must report this decision to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Division of Accountability Services by **August 1, 2020**. Option C requests must include an attachment of the proposed model that outlines the criteria for achievement and growth. All proposed models under Option C will be submitted to the SBE for review and approval at its October meeting.

Alternative School Insufficient Data Options Under ESSA

For all schools participating in the ASAM, one of the following two options must be selected for the calculation of a SPG in the event the school does not have sufficient data to determine a SPG for the current year:

a. **Return Scores -** All data is returned back to base (sending) schools within the local education agency (LEA). The alternative school, or other eligible schools, are 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 Accountability Services Division by **August 1, 2020.** All alternative or other eligible schools, as specified in ACCT-038, must have an insufficient data option determination, even if there is the possibility the school will have sufficient data.

Attached resources include (1) a description of the three options to participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model and (2) the form that LEAs/charters must use to report the options selected for their school(s). Please complete and submit the attached form with the appropriate signatures. For schools selected for Option C, attach the school's proposal, including the criteria for achievement and growth.

All completed and signed forms with any attachments must be faxed (919-807-3772) or emailed (ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov) to the attention of Ozella Wiggins by August 1, 2020. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

DS/TLH/ODW

c: Mark R. Johnson, State Superintendent
Sherry H. Thomas, Director, Exceptional Children
Dave Machado, Director, Charter Schools
Shannon Jordan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations
Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting
Regional Accountability Coordinators
LEA/Charter Test Coordinators

Attachments

Alternative Accountability Model Participation

To participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model, local boards must determine the option for each school eligible to be included in the alternative model. 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: _____ **LEA/Charter Number**: _____

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
		☐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 proposal, including the criteria for achievement and growth.

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 faxed or emailed to the attention of Ozella Wiggins at 919-807-3772 **or** ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov no later than **August 1, 2020**.

Alternative Accountability Model Participation

Local public schools and charter school boards shall determine the option that each alternative school in their jurisdiction will follow for participation in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model.

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

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

Option B. Alternative schools can participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, **or**

Option C. The alternative school may propose its own alternative accountability model for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE).

Option B: Alternative Schools Progress Model

Schools electing to participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model will be evaluated as follows:

a. Components used in the overall school score:

(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 the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS).

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

(1) Progressing – indicates a change in the overall school score from the previous year by at least +3 points.
(2) Maintaining – indicates a change in the overall school score from the previous year by -2.9 to +2.9 points.
(3) Declining – indicates a change in the overall school score from the previous year by at least -3 points.

Option C. The alternative school may propose its own alternative accountability model for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE).

(1) The proposed model must include at least one measure of achievement and one measure of growth.
   a. The model may contain multiple measures of both and any other additional measures a school wishes to submit.
   b. Schools may elect to use their data to assign themselves a designation; however, that designation cannot mirror designations already used in accountability reporting, including those used in Option B (*Progressing, Maintaining, Declining)* or SPGs (*A-F letter grades)*.

(2) A request for Option C must be submitted annually to the SBE for approval at its October meeting.