PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
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August 8, 2018

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Eric Hall, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

Tammy L. Howard, Ph.D.
Director of Accountability Services

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL OPTIONS 2018–19

At its August 2018 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved updates to ACCT-038, the policy for North Carolina's alternative schools' accountability model. This policy 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. Most notably, the policy no longer has Option B, which allowed alternative and other qualifying schools to send data back to the school students previously attended.

The alternative accountability model is a supplement to School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15. It is not a substitute for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements. Thus, effective with the 2017–18 school year, alternative schools and other eligible schools that have indicated one of the options cited in SBE policy ACCT-038 will also have a SPG reported if there is sufficient data for an A–F grade calculation. Likewise, as with all schools, 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 displayed on the NC School Report Card and these schools' SPGs will not be included in low-performing school or low-performing district determination.

NC Alternative Accountability Model Option Determination

Schools participating in the 2018–19 Alternative Accountability Model are encouraged to review their selection and resubmit their request. These schools may change the option from the previous year. Charter schools submitting a request to participate must be approved to use the alternative accountability model in accordance with State Board Policy CHTR-020. As a reminder, local boards must approve the request at an official board meeting prior to submission to the SBE.

The recently updated alternative school's accountability model allows three ways for schools to participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model:

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 these schools' eligibility criteria 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 Alternative Schools' Accountability Model. For the 2018–19 school year, local boards must report this decision to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Division of Accountability Services by **September 20, 2018**. Option C requests must include an attachment of the proposed model that outlines the criteria for achievement and growth. For schools requesting to use Option C, the requests will be submitted to the SBE for review and approval at the October SBE meeting.

Alternative School Insufficient Data Options Under ESSA

For alternative or other eligible schools, as specified in ACCT-038, that do not have sufficient data for the calculation of a SPG, one of the following two options must be selected by the school:

a. Return all data 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. Use three (3) years of data to calculate the letter grade for the school.

This option must be approved by the local or charter school board for each identified school under their jurisdiction if the school does not have sufficient single year data for the calculation. For the 2018–19 school year, local boards of education and charter school boards must report this decision to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Division of Accountability Services by **September 20, 2018**. 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 to this memo are (1) a description of the three options to participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model and (2) a form that LEAs/charters must use to report the options selected for their schools. Please complete and submit the attached form with the appropriate signatures. For schools selected for Option C, attach the school's proposal and ensure that it includes the criteria for achievement and growth.

All completed and signed forms with any attachments must be faxed (919-807-3772) or emailed (julie.molique@dpi.nc.gov) to the attention of Julie Molique by September 20, 2018. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

EH/TLH/jam

c: Mark Johnson, State Superintendent
William Hussey, Director, Exceptional Children
Dave Machado, Director, Charter Schools
Nancy Carolan, 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

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:

1. **Option A.** Alternative schools can participate in School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15, **or**
2. **Option B.** Alternative schools can participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, **or**
3. **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) 20% Student Persistence
        (a) Student Persistence is defined as the percent of students enrolling in an alternative school who remain enrolled in any North Carolina public school through the end of the school year.
    (2) 20% School Achievement
        (a) The School Achievement component uses the following indicators:
            (1) End-of-Grade (EOG) English Language Arts/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) 60% Growth
        (a) 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
        (a) Progressing indicates a change in the school from the previous year by at least +3 points.
    (2) Maintaining
        (a) Maintaining indicates a change in the school from the previous year by -2.9 to +2.9 points.
    (3) Declining
        (a) Declining indicates a change in the school 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 criteria for achievement and growth.
2. A request for Option C must be submitted annually to the SBE for approval at its October meeting.
3. For the 2018–19 school year, all requests for approval of Option C must be submitted to the SBE by September 20, 2018 for review and approval in October.

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: Montgomery **LEA/Charter Number:** 620

1. List the alternative school(s) and the options determined (i.e., A, B, or C and 3-years of data or return scores) by the local board. Include the school code.

School Name	School Code	Alternative School Accountability	Insufficient Data Option
Montgomery Learning Academy	620310	☐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. The proposal must include the criteria for achievement and growth.

2. This document must be faxed or emailed to the attention of Julie Molique at 919-807-3772 or julie.molique@dpi.nc.gov no later than **September 20, 2018.**

3. Sign and date the form.

LEA Superintendent/Charter School Director

Dr. Dale Ellis		9-10-18
Print Name	**Signature**	**Date**

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator

Takeda LeGrand	Takeda Legrand	9-10-18
Print Name	**Signature**	**Date**