



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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May 15, 2015

**TO** LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

**FROM** Rebecca B. Garland, Deputy State Superintendent *RBG*  
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent

Tammy L. Howard, Director *TLH*  
Accountability Services Division

## ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL OPTIONS 2015-16

At its December 2014 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved a policy for an 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.

Schools meeting the eligibility requirements in 2014–15 are encouraged to review their submission and must resubmit their request for 2015–16. Schools may change their option from the previous year at this time. Schools that believe they meet the eligibility requirements but did not submit a request or were denied approval in 2014–15, may submit a request for 2015–16. As a reminder, local boards must approve the request at an official board meeting prior to submission to the SBE.

There are four ways 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 return data/results back to students' home schools and receive no designations (charter schools designated as alternative schools are excluded from this choice) **or**
- Option C:** Alternative schools may participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model **or**
- Option D:** 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, C, or D. These schools are not required to report a School Performance Grade. However, 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.

### DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

6314 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6314 | (919) 807-3769 | Fax (919) 807-3772  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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Charter schools who submit a request to participate will be reviewed by the Office of Charter Schools, the School Planning Division, and the Accountability Services Division for approval.

Local boards of education (LEAs) 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 2015–16 school year, local boards and charter boards must report this decision to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Division of Accountability Services by **August 1, 2015**. Option D requests must include an attachment of the proposed model that outlines the criteria for achievement and growth. For schools requesting to use Option D, the requests will be submitted to the SBE for review in September and action in October.

Attached to this memo are (1) a description of the four 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 wishing to participate in the alternative model. Please complete and submit the attached form with the appropriate signatures, and for schools selected for Option D, attach the school's proposal ensuring that it includes the criteria for achievement and growth.

All completed and signed forms with any attachments must be faxed (919-807-3772) to the attention of Curtis Sonneman by August 1, 2015. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

TLH/cjs

c: June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent  
William Hussey, Director, Exceptional Children  
Joel Medley, Director, Charter Schools  
Karen Hoeve, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting  
Nancy Carolan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations  
Regional Accountability Coordinators  
LEA 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 four 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 return data/results back to students' home schools and receive no designations (approved charter schools are excluded from this choice), **or**
3. **Option C.** Alternative schools can participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, **or**
4. **Option D.** The alternative school may propose its own alternative accountability model for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE).

### **Option C: 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, Math I, and English II
      - (4) The 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 an alternative growth model developed in conjunction with EVAAS.
- b. A change rating will be assigned to schools comparing their previous year to the current year. For 2014–15 (the baseline year), all schools will receive the same rating.
  - (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 D. 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 D must be submitted annually to the SBE for approval at its October meeting.
3. For the 2015–16 school year, all requests for approval of Option D must be submitted to the SBE by August 1 for review in September and action in October.

## Alternative Accountability Model Participation

In order 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, the eligible schools will participate in the School Performance Grades Option.

LEA/Charter Name: Montgomery County LEA/Charter Number: 6020

1. List the alternative school(s) and the option determined (i.e., A, B, C, or D) by the local board. Include the school code.

| School Name                 | School Code | Option Selected*          |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Montgomery Learning Academy | 600310      | Option C - Progress Model |
|                             |             |                           |
|                             |             |                           |
|                             |             |                           |
|                             |             |                           |
|                             |             |                           |

\* For schools selected for Option D, attach the school's proposal. The proposal must include the criteria for achievement and growth.

2. This report must be faxed to the attention of Curtis Sonneman no later than **August 1, 2015**. The fax number is 919-807-3772.
3. Sign and date the form.

LEA Superintendent/Charter School Director

Dale Ellis, Ed.D.  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

7/13/15  
Date

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator

Takeda LeGrand, Ed.D.  
Print Name

Takeda LeGrand  
Signature

7/13/15  
Date