Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) and the 1% Threshold Justification: Tiered System of LEA Oversight and Monitoring

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires Pennsylvania to ensure that the total number of students assessed in each subject using the PA Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) does not exceed one percent of the total number of all students in the state assessed on the statewide assessments. In addition, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) requires every state to develop a State Performance Plan (SPP) which describes how states are improving educational outcomes for students with disabilities and complying with the IDEA. Student participation and performance on statewide assessments (SPP Indicator 3) includes a 95 percent participation target for students with IEPs participating in statewide assessments.

Pennsylvania implements a 3-tiered system of oversight and monitoring to address 1.0 percent compliance with LEAs across the Commonwealth. More information on PASA DLM eligibility and the state's 3-tiered system of oversight and monitoring can be accessed on the Bureau of Special Education Assessment page: ESSA 1.0 Percent Threshold Justification Requirements

Tier Descriptions

Tier 1 (Universal):

ALL LEAs are required to submit alternate statewide assessment participation data to BSE annually. LEAs who were under the 1% in the most recent testing year and who do not plan to exceed the 1% threshold in the upcoming testing cycle will submit their demographic information and assurance only. Those who exceeded last year and/or plan to exceed the 1% this year are required to submit responses to a series of justification questions identified in the 1% threshold survey via the LEA customized link provided.

A list of LEAs who anticipate exceeding the threshold will be made publicly available on the PDE website, in accordance with 34 CFR 200.6 (c)(3) regulations. Any LEA that exceeds the 1.0 percent threshold may be subject to further review by BSE.

Tier 2 (Targeted):

Tier 2 LEAs are identified based upon higher rates of PASA participation in the most recent testing year and required to submit responses to all the 1% threshold survey justification questions via the survey link and may be subject to additional on-site visits and/or file reviews as required by the BSE.

Tier 3 (Intensive):

Tier 3 LEAs are identified based upon excessively high rates of PASA participation in the most recent testing year and required to submit responses to all the 1% threshold survey justification questions via the survey link. In addition, these LEAs will work directly with a BSE representative to complete the tensive Needs Review data protocol and submission of required IEPs. These LEAs are also subject to on-site visits and/or additional file reviews as determined by BSE.

All LEAs must provide the following information via the link:

1. Name of LEA (School Districts): Southern Fulton School DIstrict
2. Name of LEA (Charter Schools): _____
3. Address of LEA: 3072 Great Cove Raod, Warfordsburg, PA 17267
4. LEA Contact Information (Name/Role/Email/Phone Number):

   Dr. Laurel Keegan, Special Education Director, lkeegan@sfsd.school, 717-294-3400, Ext 3004.

5. Review the LEA's participation rate in the most recent testing year provided by BSE. Compare this to the planned percentage of students the LEA will enroll for the upcoming testing cycle. What is the anticipated PASA percentage for the upcoming year? LEAs may access more information on the 1% calculation in the annual PASA Getting Ready training: Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA)

   (1% or less (If <=1% in testing data and <=1% in anticipated data) go to assurances. Any LEA who exceeded 1% in most current testing data or those who anticipate being over 1% this year move on to more questions)

   - (●) >1% - 2%
   - ( ) >2% - 3%
   - ( ) >3% - 4%
   - ( ) >4%

6. Review the anticipated students who will participate in the upcoming testing cycle, including students the LEA has placed with outside service providers. Provide the number of students eligible for PASA in each disability category.

   Chapter 14 primary disability category below:

3 Autism	____ Multiple Disabilities
____ Deaf-Blind	____ Orthopedic Impairment
____ Deafness	1 Other Health Impairment
____ Emotional Disturbance	____ Speech/Language Impairment
____ Hearing Impairment	____ Traumatic Brain Injury
2 Intellectual Disability	____ Visual Impairment
____ Specific Learning Disability	

7. Does the LEA continue to have students participating in the PASA with disability categories that are not typically eligible for the PASA? (Typically, students with a primary disability category of specific learning disability, emotional disturbance or speech/language impairment only do not meet the definition of a significant cognitive disability.)

   ○ Yes ◉ No

8. If the answer is 'yes', explain how IEP teams are determining these students meet all 6 PASA eligibility criteria. How will the LEA ensure IEP teams review these eligibility determinations prior to enrolling/ testing students for the PASA this year?

9. How is the LEA assuring that IEP Teams are adhering to the six criteria for all students when determining eligibility for participation in the PASA? (Check all that apply.)

   ☑ The IEP team answers 'yes' to all six PASA eligibility criteria using the "PASA Eligibility Criteria: Decision Making Companion Tool".

   ☑ The IEP team documents the decision for a student to participate in the PASA in section IV of the IEP, explaining specifically how all six of the PASA eligibility criteria have been met.

   ☑ The Special Education Administrator ensures that necessary training and updates on PASA eligibility are shared with relevant staff members on an ongoing basis.

   ☑ The IEP team does not base the decision for a student to participate in the PASA on classroom placement (e.g., not all students in a Life Skills Support program will qualify), EL status, administrative decision, or any of the other factors outlined in the eligibility criteria decision making companion tool.

   ☐ Other (please describe) _____

10. Does the LEA have fewer than 100 students total in the tested accountability grades (3-8 and 11) participating in statewide assessments (PSSA, Keystone Exams, PASA)?

    ○ Yes (small overall N size may be a factor in exceeding the 1% threshold)

    ◉ No

11. Provide any additional justification of variables not already noted above that may contribute to higher numbers of students being deemed eligible for participation in the PASA that would result in a PASA participation rate in excess of 1%. (Enter N/A if not applicable.)

    Southern Fulton School District anticipates that six students will participate in the PASA this year, a decrease from the previous school year. Despite this decrease, the anticipated participation rate remains above the 1.0% threshold, in part because students eligible for the PASA have moved into the district.

12. Does the LEA project PASA participation rates to decrease, stay the same, or increase this year compared to last year?

- (●) Decrease
- ( ) Stay the same
- ( ) Increase

If the LEA projects an increase, provide an explanation:

13. Review the 95% participation rate provided to the LEA by BSE. How many students with disabilities participated in statewide assessment in the most recent testing year (students in grades 3-8 and 11 taking PSSA, Keystone Exams and PASA)?

- (●) 95% or more
- ( ) 90 to <95%
- ( ) 85% to <90
- ( ) <85%

14. If less than 95%, what does the LEA intend to do to improve participation of students with disabilities in the upcoming testing cycle? Remember to include students the LEA has placed with outside service providers.

15. Does the LEA have PASA eligible students placed with outside service providers?

(●) Yes ( ) No

16. If the LEA has students placed with outside service providers, how does the LEA ensure PASA eligibility decisions are being made according to the state's eligibility criteria for students in these placements?

The LEA participates in each student's IEP meeting and ensures that the team reviews and documents how the student meets all six PASA eligibility criteria and tests at the outside placement.

17. How will the IEP team reconsider the six eligibility criteria for students scoring at the advanced level on the PASA? (Enter N/A if no students scored at the advanced level).

The IEP team will reconvene to review the student ' s eligibility for PASA participation. If the team determines that the student does not meet all six eligibility criteria, the IEP will be updated to reflect participation in the PSSA with appropriate accommodations.

18. How is the LEA providing training to relevant staff and stakeholders on PASA DLM eligibility and statewide assessment participation? LEAs may refer to the resources provided in the PASA Getting Ready PowerPoint slides.

The LEA provides annual professional development on PASA DLM eligibility and statewide assessment participation for IEP team members, special education staff, administrators, and other relevant stakeholders. Training includes a review of the PASA Getting Ready PowerPoint and current state guidance, with an emphasis on eligibility criteria, required documentation, and appropriate assessment decisions.Throughout the year, the LEA provides ongoing support and refresher training to communicate updates, answer questions, and promote consistent implementation across the district.

Tier 3 LEAs must complete all questions and LEA assurances. In addition, Tier 3 LEAs will be contacted directly by a BSE representative for the additional requirements to include submission of an Intensive Needs Review data protocol and submission of student IEPs. The required action steps and timeline for submission of these additional steps will be identified by the BSE representative.

LEA Assurances:

The content and data in this document represent the LEA's justification and/or plan to address compliance with state assessment participation rates. It is understood that the State is not authorized to grant approval for an LEA to exceed the federally mandated 1.0 percent threshold or to excuse the LEA from the federal requirement to assess at least 95% of all students and students with disabilities.

Dr. Laurel Keegan

*(LEA Representative)

Mrs. Meredith Hendershot

*(Superintendent/ Chief School Administrator)

*Type the names into the electronic survey. Original signatures should be kept on file at the LEA.