



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment Eligibility Process Memo for the 2021-22 School Year

Introduction

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is committed to providing equitable assessment opportunities for all students in the District of Columbia. Alternate, districtwide assessments are available for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities as an alternative to participating in the general statewide assessments. Our statewide assessment systems provide us critical information on academic performance across the city and we will be on track to resume administration in spring 2022. We are committed to working with our stakeholders to be able to provide assessment options for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

General information regarding the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA), the Dynamic Learning Maps science alternate assessment (DLM), and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Alt ACCESS) assessment can be found on OSSE's "[Alternate Assessments](#)" web page.

Applying for Alternate Assessment Eligibility in SEDS

Eligibility for participation in **any** alternate assessment for the 2021-2022 school year begins with LEAs completing the appropriate documentation in Special Education Data System (SEDS). During the Individualized Education Program (IEP) development process, or through an IEP amendment, teams are to carefully review OSSE's [participation criteria](#) to identify individual students for whom it may be most appropriate to participate in the alternate assessment program.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities who are deemed eligible by OSSE for alternate assessment participation will take the MSAA in grades 3-8 and grade 11, DLM science alternate assessment in grades 5, 8 and HS Biology, and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs in grades 1-12. Determinations for students in grades 3-12 with "Alternate Assessment" selected on their IEP will be made by OSSE. IEP teams will make determinations for students in grades K-2.

Every fall, OSSE reviews student records to determine eligibility for alternate assessment participation for the current school year. For OSSE to review a student for alternate assessment eligibility for the 2021-22 school year, the following documentation must be made in SEDS:

1. There is a current IEP on file.
2. The current IEP indicates "Alternate Assessment" selected by the IEP team.
3. There is a "DC Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Documentation Form" on file that was completed and submitted with the current IEP.
4. All documentation to support the alternate assessment decision form has been uploaded.

OSSE recommends LEAs begin completing the appropriate documentation in SEDS as soon as the new school year begins.

Application Scenarios

For further guidance, please refer to the following scenarios.

Scenario 1: New Applicants

For new students requesting eligibility for alternate assessments in 2021-22, follow the process below:

- Ensure there is an IEP current in SEDS.
- Ensure the current IEP indicates “Alternate Assessment” selected by IEP team
 - *If the IEP does not indicate “alternate assessment,” an IEP amendment is needed.*
- Complete the “DC Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Documentation Form” (Participation Criteria Form) electronically in SEDS.
- Upload all supporting documentation in SEDS.

Scenario 2: Yearly Renewals for Alternate Assessment Eligibility

For students renewing eligibility for alternate assessments in 2021-22, please follow the steps listed below:

- Ensure there is a current IEP in SEDS.
- Ensure the current IEP indicates “Alternate Assessment” selected by IEP team.
 - *If the IEP does not indicate “alternate assessment,” an IEP amendment is needed.*
- Ensure the “DC Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Documentation Form” (Participation Criteria Form) is completed electronically in SEDS.
- Ensure all supporting documentation is in SEDS.
- NOTE* Students determined eligible for the 2020-21 school year will automatically be determined eligible for the 2021-22 school year with the aforementioned steps in place.

LEA Rolling View of Applications via Qlik

Starting on **Oct. 4, 2021**, LEA Assessment Managers and LEA Special Education POCs will be granted access to the Qlik application. As a reminder, a completed application includes: (1) a “DC Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Documentation Form” (PDF or electronic); (2) “Alternate Assessment” selected in SEDS; and (3) a current IEP. In the Qlik application, LEAs will be able to see whether these steps have been completed in SEDS for each student. In addition, LEAs and schools will be able to see if any intended applicants are missing entirely from the Qlik feed. If there are students missing, or any missing requirements, LEAs/schools are responsible for making corrections to the students’ records in SEDS. The final application deadline is **Oct. 15, 2021**.

The Qlik feed will be updated daily. Please note that if you complete the electronic participation decision form in SEDS after October 15th, this record will not be reviewed until the appeals process and will be reflected in the Qlik feed starting Nov. 22. If your LEA foresees challenges with meeting the Oct. 15 application deadline, please reach out to Michael.Craig@dc.gov.

OSSE Review of Applications for Alternate Assessment Eligibility

Starting on **Oct. 18, 2021**, OSSE will review all alternate assessment eligibility applications. Eligibility determinations will be returned to LEAs in SEDS. On **Nov. 22, 2021**, all determinations will be reflected in SEDS for applications received by Oct. 15. LEAs will also be able to view the determinations in the Qlik application.

Determination Appeals

If an LEA decides to appeal an eligibility determination, then the LEA will do so through a Quickbase application. The Quickbase application will allow LEAs to communicate further with OSSE about the case via a secure platform. For most appeals, additional documentation that supports the IEP team's request will need to be uploaded in SEDS (e.g., new evaluations, case records, or assessment results). Access to this Quickbase application and detailed user instructions will be provided to LEAs by Nov. 22.

Timeline for the Alternate Assessment Eligibility Process for the 2020-21 School Year

Task	Deadline	System
LEAs add or update documentation for alternate assessment requests in SEDS. For OSSE to review for participation eligibility, a student must have the following in SEDS for the 2021-22 school year: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is a current IEP on file.2. The current IEP indicates "Alternate Assessment" selected by the IEP team.3. There is a "DC Alternate Assessment Participation Decision Documentation Form" on file associated with the current IEP.4. All documentation to support the alternate assessment decision form has been uploaded. Refer to the scenario examples to determine whether an electronic or PDF documentation form is appropriate.	Oct. 15, 2021	SEDS
LEAs are able to view the students who have alternate assessment applications in SEDS through a Qlik application.	Oct. 4, 2021 (rolling updates)	SEDS Qlik
Final deadline for LEAs updating alternate assessment eligibility documentation in SEDS for the 2021-22 school year.	Oct. 15 2021	SEDS
OSSE reviews documentation in SEDS for students requesting eligibility for alternate assessments in the 2021-22 school year.	Oct. 18, 2021 – Nov. 19, 2021	SEDS
OSSE sends Exceeding 1 Percent Cap Justification Memo and Justification Form to LEAs who have assessed more than 1 percent of their students with an alternate assessment.	Oct. 25, 2021	Quickbase
Final deadline for LEAs to submit their Exceeding 1 Percent Cap Justification Form to OSSE.	Nov. 5 2021	Quickbase

Task	Deadline	System
OSSE sends eligibility determinations to LEAs in SEDS. In addition, LEAs will be able to view these determinations in Qlik.	Nov. 22, 2021	SEDS Qlik
LEAs may appeal eligibility determinations in Quickbase and in most cases will need to submit additional evidence that supports the appeal to OSSE in SEDS. As a rare exception, LEAs may submit new eligibility applications after the application window for transfer students or students who have new evaluations or disability determinations.	Nov. 22, 2021 – Dec. 17, 2021	Quickbase SEDS
LEAs receive final eligibility determinations from OSSE in SEDS.	Jan.10, 2022	SEDS

For more information and guidance for IEP teams on alternate assessment participation, please contact Michael Craig at Michael.Craig@dc.gov or (202) 257-3371. For technical assistance with Qlik, contact [your DAR Liaison](#).