



Rhode Island seeks waiver extension from the U.S. Department of Education to exceed alternate assessment 1% Cap

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Commissioner

What are the alternate assessments?

The alternate assessments are part of the Rhode Islands' state assessment system. The alternate assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The structure of these assessments are designed around the student's physical and cognitive disabilities in a way that allows them to answer test questions and participate in the test as independently as possible. Students eligible for the alternate assessment take the Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessments in lieu of RICAS, SAT, and/or the NGSA. More information on the criteria a student must meet in order to be eligible for the alternate assessments can be found at www.ride.ri.gov/dlm.

What is Rhode Island seeking a waiver from?

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is formally requesting a waiver, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. §200.6(c)(4) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), from the following statutory provision in English language arts, mathematics, and science:

34 C.F.R. 200.6(c)(2): For each subject for which assessments are administered under § 200.2(a)(1), the total number of students assessed in that subject using an alternate assessment with alternate academic achievement standards under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in that subject.

Why is Rhode Island requesting an extension to the waiver?

Rhode Island applied for, and received, approval of a waiver to test more than 1.00% of students using the DLM alternate assessments in previous years. Last year Rhode Island received a waiver of the administration of state assessments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using estimates from district enrollment data, we anticipate that Rhode Island will assess more than 1.00% of students using the alternate assessment in 2020-21.

Receiving this flexibility will allow RIDE and LEAs to continue to review and refine procedures regarding eligibility for the alternate assessment specifically examining areas of disproportionality.

How can I find out what Rhode Island's plan is to meet the 1% cap on students participating in the alternate assessment?

More information on the alternate assessment and Rhode Island's plan to address the 1% cap can be found at www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/OnePercentRule.aspx

How can I give feedback on this flexibility request?

Enter your feedback on this short survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXQ8WG3>) or email assessment@ride.ri.gov by January 6, 2021.