

Alternate Assessment Disproportionality Calculator: A Tool for SEAs

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2023 OSEP LEADERSHIP AND PROJECT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE





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Presenters

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- Andrew Hinkle, Education Program Manager, NCEO
- Lynn Vasquez, Assessment and LMS Director, New Mexico
- Jo Hannah Ward, Office for Exceptional Children Director, Ohio



Agenda

- Introduction to the Disproportionality Tool
- New Mexico's Disproportionality Work
- Ohio's Disproportionality Work
- Discussion



ESSA, The 1% Cap, and Disproportionality

- ESSA includes a 1.0% cap on state-level participation rates in the alternate assessment aligned to alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS)
- States may apply for a waiver
- States must address disproportionality of students taking the AA-AAAS



Disproportionality in the AA-AAAS

- There is no definition of what disproportionality in the AA-AAAS is
- No guidance on methodology for analysis of disproportionality in the AA-AAAS.
- States needed a way to examine AA-AAAS participation for disproportionality
- NCEO and NCIEA teamed up to create guidance for using a tool
- After some piloting, refined and used a risk ratio



The Tool

- The tool will be demonstrated here.



New Mexico

- Lynn Vasquez, Assessment and LMS Director, New Mexico



Ohio

- Jo Hannah Ward, Office for Exceptional Children Director, Ohio



Ohio AA Process

- 640 districts and community schools exceeded the 1% rate. That's about 2/3 of all.
- 37 Traditional districts had participation rates over 3%
- 619 districts and community schools submitted justifications
- Ohio needed to take action



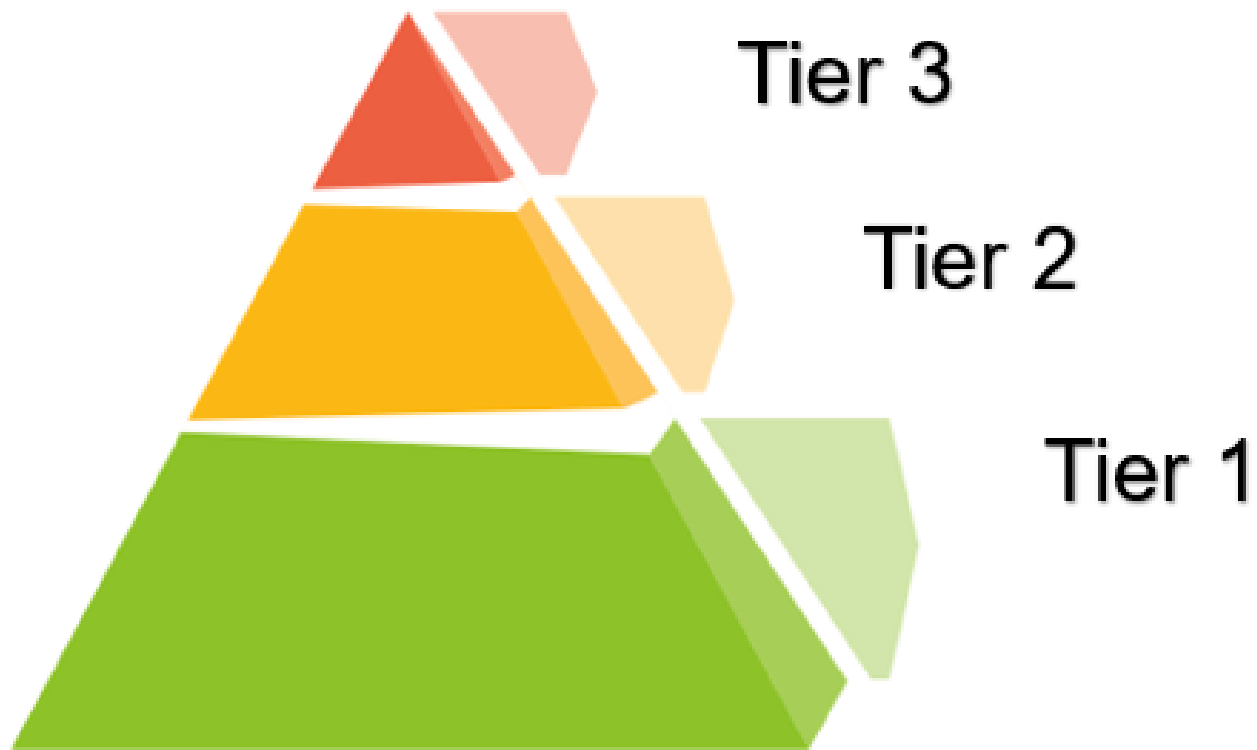
Improving the Justification Process

New Justification Component: Disability Categories

Disability as Identified in IDEA	2018-19 Projected AASCD Reading Participation Count
Multiple Disabilities	
Deaf-Blindness	
Deafness (Hearing Impairment)	
Visual Impairment	
Speech and Language Impairment	
Orthopedic Impairment	
Emotional Disturbance	
Intellectual Disability	
Specific Learning Disability	
Autism	
Traumatic Brain Injury	
Other Health Impaired-Major	
Other Health Impaired-Minor	



Tiered System of Support

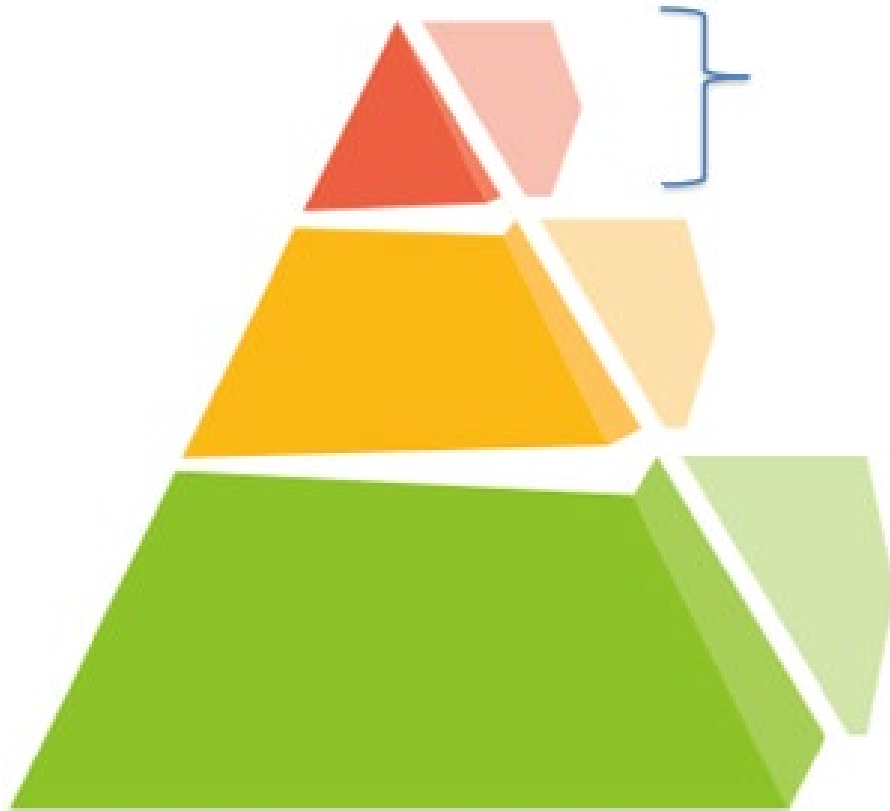


Determining Tiers of Support

- Participation rate
- Justification
- Counts by Disability Category
- Trend and Subgroup Data



Tier 3 Support



All districts over 1% that are identified by the Department as needing significant support

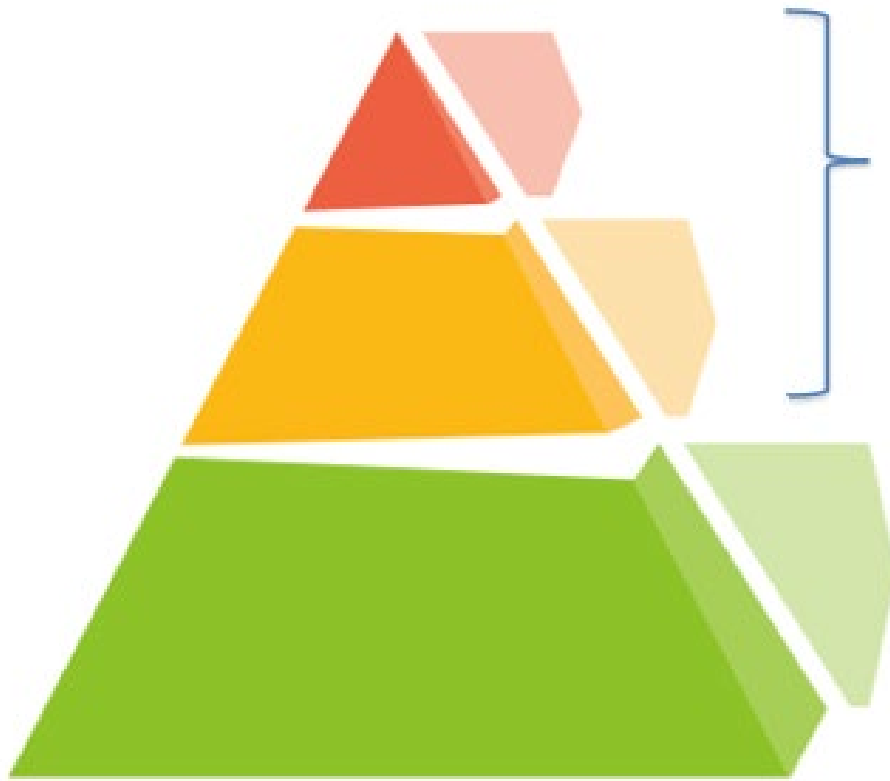


Supported District Self-Review

- Embedded in district profiles dashboard
- Supported by regional teams
- Includes a root cause analysis process to identify area(s) needing improvement



Tier 2 Support



All districts over 1% that are identified by the Department as needing moderate-significant support



Tier 1 Support



State Waiver Action Step

- The Department will continue to provide resources and training to districts about the new decision making tool.
- The new tool will help address the inappropriate placement of students without the most significant cognitive disabilities on the alternate assessment.
- It will also assist educators with consistent application of the state's participation criteria.



Decision Making Tool FAQ

- Organized by part (A, B, C, D)
- 27 questions
- 8 pages








Part A – Determining Initial Eligibility

- Does the student have a current IEP?
- Review the student's IDEA category

Determining Initial Eligibility

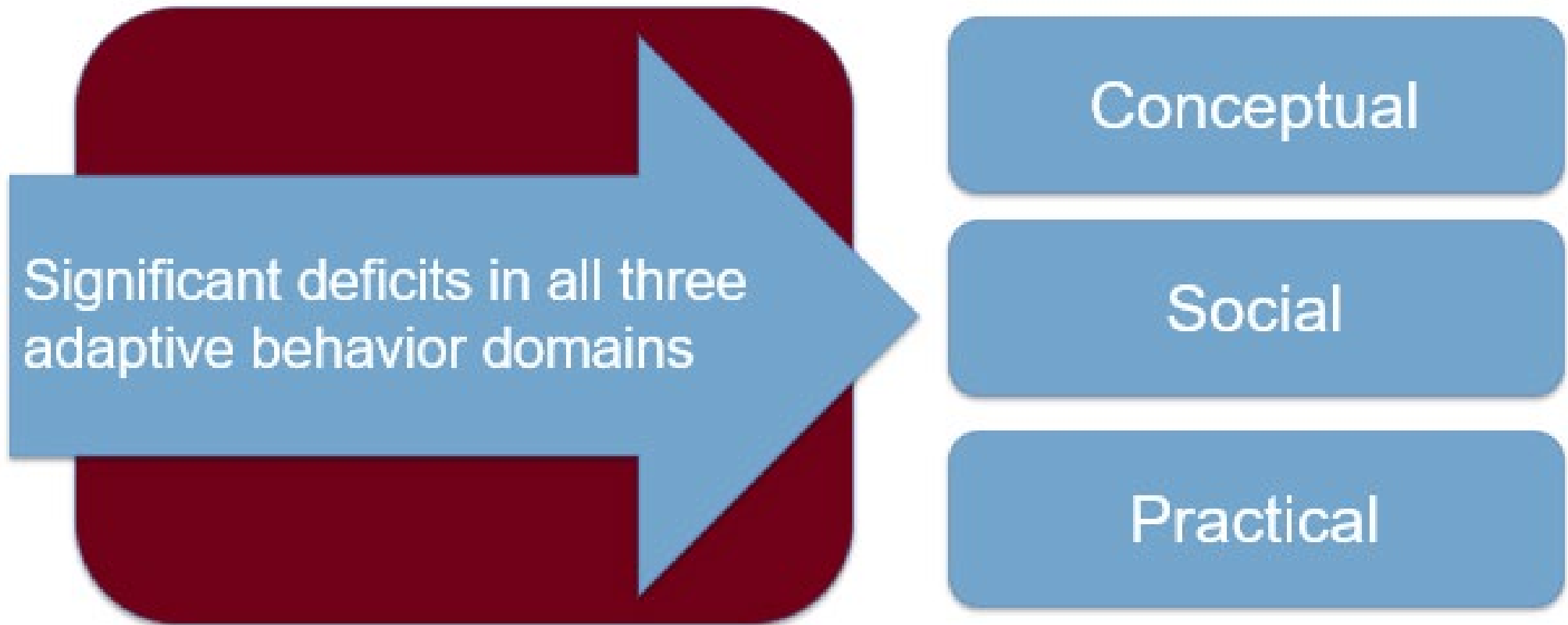
Instructions: Complete the first two questions to determine if the student may be eligible for participation in the alternate assessment.

Does the student have a current individualized education program (IEP)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the student does not have an IEP.  STOP. The student is not eligible for alternate assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the student has a current IEP.  Proceed to the next statement.

Does the student meet the state eligibility criteria under the following disability category designations: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) category .		
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Learning Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Speech or Language Impairment (only)  STOP. The student is not eligible for participation in the alternate assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Deafness/Hearing Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Disturbance <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment  Proceed to Part B.	<input type="checkbox"/> Autism <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf-Blindness <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury  Proceed to Part C.



Part B – Determining Most Significant Cognitive Disability



Part C – Determining extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Accommodations/Modifications

Assistive Technology



Part D – Additional Considerations

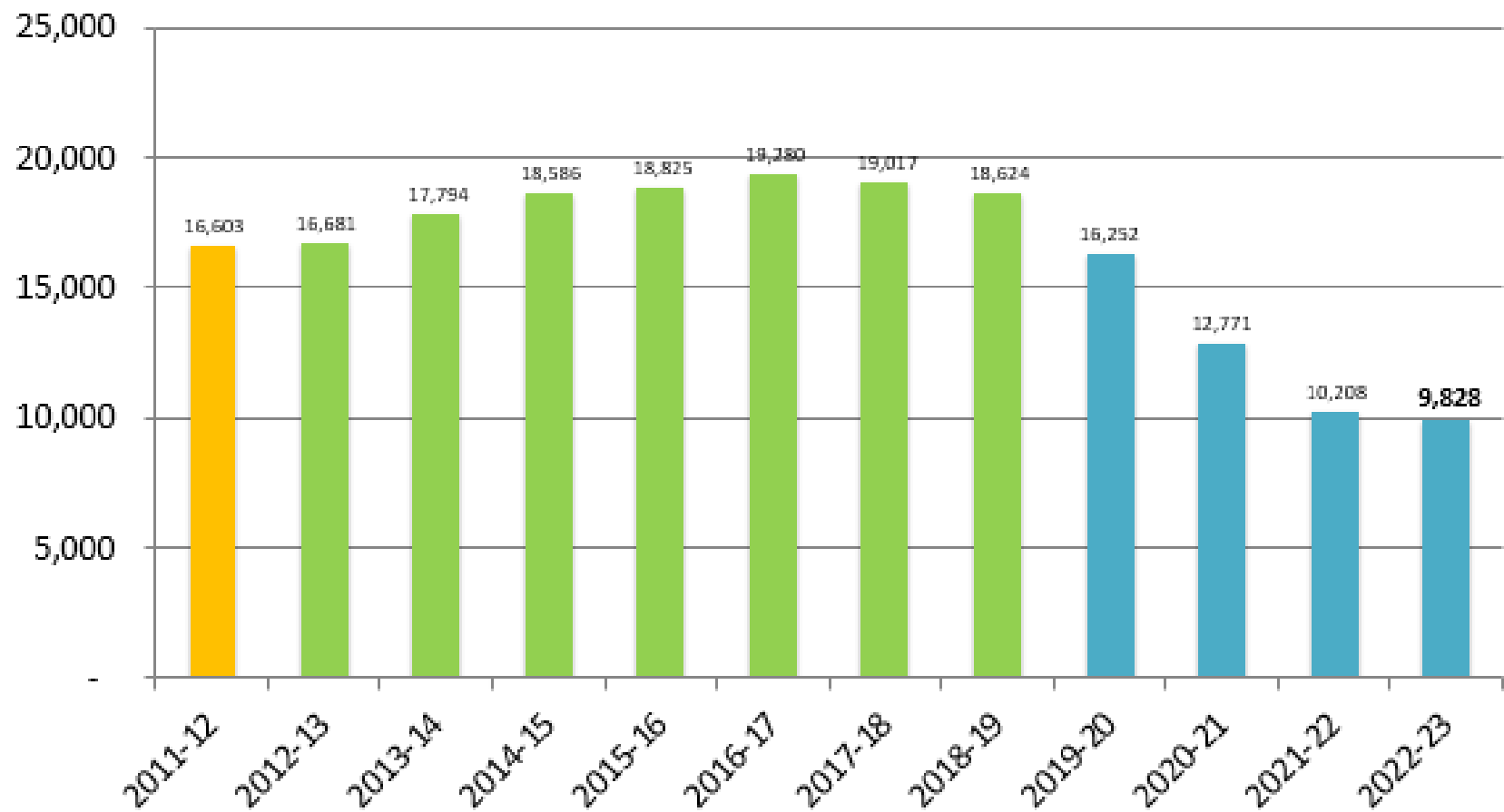
Decision made after reviewing
the entire decision-making tool

Collection of evidence in
parts A, B and C

Decision to participate
NOT based solely on...



AASCD 2023 Administration Overview



State Participation Data in Alternate Assessment by Subject Across Years (EdFacts)\

Subject	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change
Reading	1.93%	1.95%	1.93%	1.37%	0.97%	-0.39%
Mathematics	1.97%	1.99%	1.95%	1.40%	0.99%	-0.40%
Science	1.89%	2.02%	1.96%	1.45%	1.03%	-0.41%



Discussion

- Are you addressing disproportionality in the AA-AAAS in your state?
- Do you think you could use this tool?
- If you find disproportionality in an LEA, what are some things you might talk about?



Excel Tool

The Excel tool described in this document can be accessed at:

Example:

<https://nceo.umn.edu/docs/OnlinePubs/DisproCalculatorExampleData.xlsx>

Blank tool:

<https://nceo.umn.edu/docs/OnlinePubs/DisproCalcBlank.xlsx>



For More Information

www.nceo.info

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Resource Spotlight

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website
 - Brings together IDEA information and resources from the Department and its grantees.
 - <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>
- IDEAS That Work
 - For information from research to practice initiatives funded by OSEP that address the provisions of IDEA and ESSA. This website includes resources, links, and other important information relevant to OSEP's research to practice efforts.
 - <https://osepideasthatwork.org/>





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