

# FY 26 Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold

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# Agenda

- Overview of Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold
- FY26 Metrics for Tiering
- Requirements for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3
- Monitoring activities
- Timeline of activities
- Resources

# Overview of Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 [ESEA §111(b)(2)(D) and 34 CFR 200.6(c)]**

- Places a 1 percent cap on participation in the AA-AAAS.
- Requires informing parents (as part of the IEP process) about what achievement standards their student will be assessed on and any implications for receiving a regular high school diploma
- Prohibits the placement of a cap on district, school, or IEP team on assessment participation decisions.
- Requires the State to provide oversight to LEAs for exceeding the 1% cap.

# Overview of Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2016

- Clarifies it is an IEP decision, but IEP teams must follow state guidelines.
  - The Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines will assist Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams in determining whether students should participate in the alternate assessment.
- Requires that all SEAs make their justifications publicly available.
- Provides requirements for States to request waivers

# Alternate Assessment Participation Calculation

$$\left\{ \frac{\text{Total number of students in Grades 3-8 and 11 taking the ALTERNATE assessment}}{\text{Total number of students in Grades 3-8 and 11 across ALL assessments}} \right\} \times \underline{100}$$

State accountability assessments include the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, the Illinois Science Assessment, the ACT, and the DLM-AA.

# Metrics for Tiering

## TIER 1: Universal Support

- LEAs between 0%-1.99% for SY25 and/or
- LEAs with less than 5 students tested in each subject area in SY25.

## TIER 2: Targeted Support

- LEAs above 1.0% for two consecutive years and have an increase of 0.5 percentage points or higher between SY 24 and SY 25 and/or;
- LEAs above 1.0% for SY25 and have an increase of 0.5 percentage points or higher between SY24 and SY25 and/or;
- LEAs above 2% for SY25

## TIER 3: Intensive Support

- LEAs above 2% for 2 or more consecutive years between SY24 and SY25 and/or;
- LEAs with 3 consecutive years above 1.0% and the rate increased by 0.5 percentage points or greater over the 3-year timeline of SY23 vs SY25.

# Requirements for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3

## TIER 1

- Complete Justification and Assurances Survey

## TIER 2

- Complete Justification and Assurances Survey
- Complete Alternate Assessment Self Reflection Tool

## TIER 3

- Complete Justification and Assurances Survey
- Complete an LEA Action Plan and submit it to ISBE for approval
- Attend three required /recorded trainings and submit verification of the completion of the trainings to ISBE.
- Complete IEP Review Forms

# Monitoring Activities



# Justification & Assurances Survey

- All LEAs must complete
- Only required activity for Tier 1
- Available in IWAS
  - Superintendent
- Completion window
  - February 13 – May 29, 2026

# IWAS - Survey

The screenshot shows the 'Other Systems' page in the IWAS interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items like Home, System Listing, Pending Sign Ups, Pending Documents, Change Password, Messages - Inbox, Messages - Archived, Search, Help, Log Out, and IWAS Training Video. The main content area has a heading 'Other Systems' and a sub-heading 'To gain authorization to use a system, click on "Sign Up Now" under the "Authorization" heading.' Below this is a table with columns for 'Categories' and 'Authorization'. The 'Categories' column lists 'Claims', 'Annual', 'Grants', and 'Surveys'. The 'Surveys' category is highlighted in yellow. Under 'Surveys', there is a listing for '0-3 Prevention Initiative Outcomes Questionnaire' with a 'Sign Up Now' button. Other systems listed include 'Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS)', 'Orphanage Tuition 18-3', and 'Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System', each with an information icon and a 'Sign Up Now' button. A link 'Click Here for Due Dates' is also visible.

To gain authorization to use a system, click on "Sign Up Now" under the "Authorization" heading.

**Categories** - click to Expand/Collapse Tree

Categories	Authorization
<b>Claims</b>	
Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS)	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
<b>Annual</b>	
Orphanage Tuition 18-3	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
<b>Grants</b>	
<b>Surveys</b>	
0-3 Prevention Initiative Outcomes Questionnaire	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>
	<a href="#">Sign Up Now</a>

The survey will be listed as  
**“Alternate Assessment  
Justification and Assurances”**

# Monitoring Activities – Tier 2

## Alternate Assessment Self-Reflection Tool

Review	Review data processes
Evaluate	Evaluate policies, procedures, and practices
Manage	Manage participation rates proactively

# Monitoring Activities – Tier 3

## LEA Action Plan

- Conduct improvement analysis
- Develop plan to address areas of needed improvement
  - Defined activities
  - Timeline
  - Evidence
- Submit plan (March); progress & evidence (October)

# Monitoring Activities – Tier 3

## IEP Content Review Form

- Review five student IEPs who took alternate assessment
- ISBE principal consultant provides list
- Purpose:
  - Determine if IEPs provide evidence that supports students' participation in alternate assessment
  - Verify district policies, procedures, and practices are align with assigning participation in alternate assessment

# Monitoring Activities – Tier 3

## Office Hours Professional Learning

- Focus of learning is to evaluate and improve district policies, procedures, and practices
- Three webinars (March, April, May)
- Attendance required for Tier 3 districts; recommended for all
- Webinar recordings to be posted on website

# Timeline of Activities

Timeline	Activities
November 17, 2025	IAASE webinar on Alternate Assessment 1%
December 4, 2025	ISBE webinar at 11:00am on Alternate Assessment 1%
<b>February 6, 2026</b> <i>(anticipated)</i>	Notification letters sent to all LEAs with level of support determination
February 13, 2026	Justification and Assurance Survey submission window opens for all LEAs
March 5, 2026 10:00 a.m.	<b><u>Office Hours Professional Learning</u></b> webinar <i>required for Tier 3 LEAs</i> . Focus will be on data systems and analysis.
<b>March 16, 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAs assigned to Tier 3 support must submit their LEA Action Plans and IEP Review Forms</li> <li>• LEAs assigned to Tier 2 support must submit their LEA Alternate Assessment Self-Reflection Tool</li> </ul>

# Timeline of Activities

Timeline	Activities
April 9, 2026 10:00 a.m.	<b>Office Hours Professional Learning</b> webinar required for Tier 3 LEAs (recommended for Tier 1 & 2). Focus will be on ISBE resources to support LEAs in making decisions on assessments.
May 7, 2026 10:00 a.m.	<b>Office Hours Professional Learning</b> webinar required for Tier 3 LEAs (recommended for Tier 1 & 2). Focus will be on LEAs policy, procedure, and practice development pertaining to alternate assessments.
<b>May 29, 2026</b>	Justification and Assurances Survey submission closes for all LEAs
<b>October 15, 2026</b>	Tier 3 LEAs submit progress report on goals from LEA Action Plans

# Resources

## Coming Soon!

- FY 26 Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold Guidance and Timeline document
- Revised Alternate Assessment Decision Making Tool
- Revised Tier 3 LEA Action Plan document
- Tier 3 IEP Content Review Form for Participation in Alternate Assessment
- Tier 2 Self-Assessment Tool

**Slide 17**

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**MKO**

I think it would be good to put the forms we will be using here for a quick overview. Justifications, IEP review, Action Plan etc

Michael Keeney, 2025-11-19T18:48:35.754

# Contact Us

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# Questions?

Thank you