

STAAR Alternate 2, TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate Updates

Texas Education Agency
Student Assessment Division
October 18, 2019
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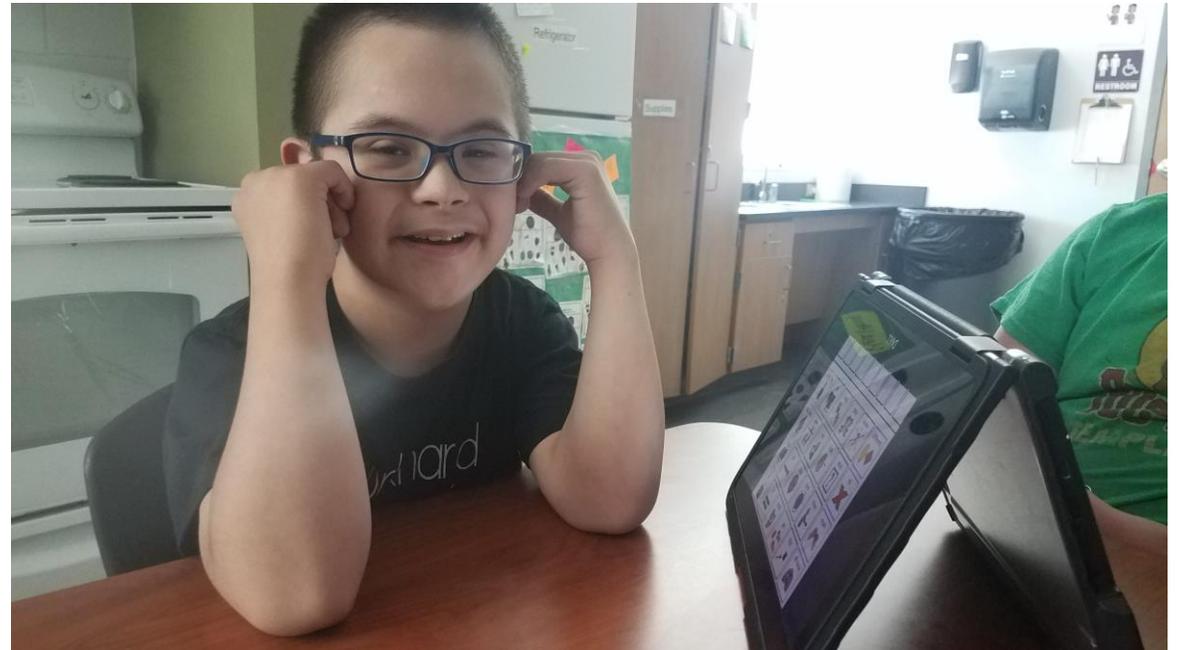
STAAR Alternate 2

- STAAR Alternate 2 Eligibility
- Spring 2020 STAAR Alternate 2 Dates
- STAAR Alternate 2 Resources
- STAAR Alternate 2 Administration Highlights
- ESSA 1% Update – Spring 2019 Data

Definition of significant cognitive disability

Texas definition of a student with a significant cognitive disability:

- exhibits significant intellectual and adaptive behavior deficits in their ability to plan, comprehend, and reason, and ALSO indicates adaptive behavior deficits that limit their ability to apply social and practical skills such as personal care, social problem-solving skills, dressing, eating, using money, and other functional skills across life domains;
- is NOT identified based on English learner designation or solely on the basis of previous low academic achievement or the need for accommodations; and
- requires extensive, direct, individualized instruction, as well as a need for substantial supports that are neither temporary nor specific to a particular content area.



STAAR Alternate 2 Eligibility Decisions

- **Revised in 2018 to**
 - clarify the scope of students who are taking STAAR Alternate 2 and
 - satisfy the requirements of ESSA, 2015
- **TETN STAAR Alternate 2 2018-2019 Participation Requirement Training**
 - <https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/special-ed/staaralt/>

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STAAR Alternate 2 Key Dates 2019-2020



Additional dates can be found in 2019-2020 Calendar of Events

<https://txassessmentdocs.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ODCCM/pages/191465664/Calendar+of+Events>

Early Start Preview Window Requests

- Districts whose Spring Break prevents test administrators from having a full “two week” preview window may ask for an early start date to preview window.
- Submit early start to preview window requests to StudentAssessment@tea.texas.gov
- Include training information in your email. Requests will be approved if training dates allow educators to receive test administrator training in lieu of early start.
- The testing window schedule can not be affected, only the two week preview window may be adjusted.

Students who enroll on or after March 30, 2020

- Students who transfer/move to a **new district** after the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window do not have to be tested.
- Students who transfer **within the same district** after the first day of the STAAR Alternate 2 testing window still must be tested by the district where the student is enrolled.

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Summer 2019 posting

- Release of STAAR Alternate 2 test forms for every grade and subject
 - Test questions may have been previously administered.
 - A test form is a set of released test questions previously administered together to Texas students which reflects the STAAR Alternate 2 test blueprints.
 - Each test form include a test administrator manual and a student booklet for each subject/grade or course.
 - Each test administrator manual includes scripted questions, guidelines for presentation of the test stimulus, and scoring information.
 - Correct answers are indicated by a * on each test item in the Test Administrator manual.

STAAR Alternate 2 Webpage Updates

Fall postings

- Updated STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide and Test Administrator Manual Non-secure Front Matter (posted)
- Updated Instructional Terms lists
- Updated Essence Statements
- Updated Social Studies Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents

Early Spring postings

- Updated RLA Vertical Alignment and Curriculum Framework documents

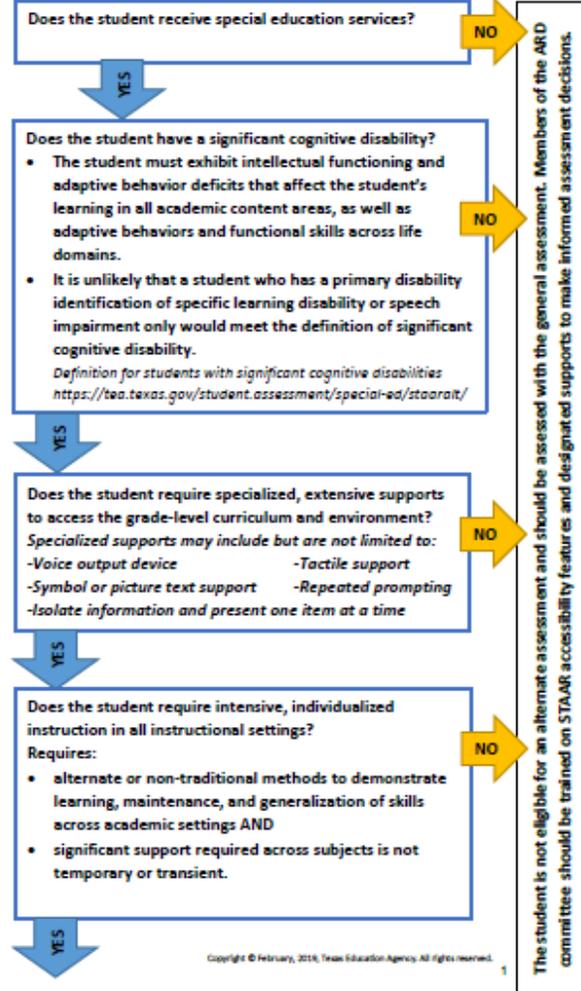
NEW Companion Document



Sources of Evidence

- Results of cognitive ability tests
- Results of adaptive behavior skills assessments
- Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) statements
- Data from research-based interventions
- Progress monitoring data
- Results of informal assessments or teacher collected data and checklists
- Examples from student's goals/objectives
- Work samples from school or community-based instruction
- Post-school outcomes documented in the Transition Plan portion of the Individual Education Program (IEP)

STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements Companion Document
Must be used in conjunction with the STAAR Alternate 2 Participations Requirements.

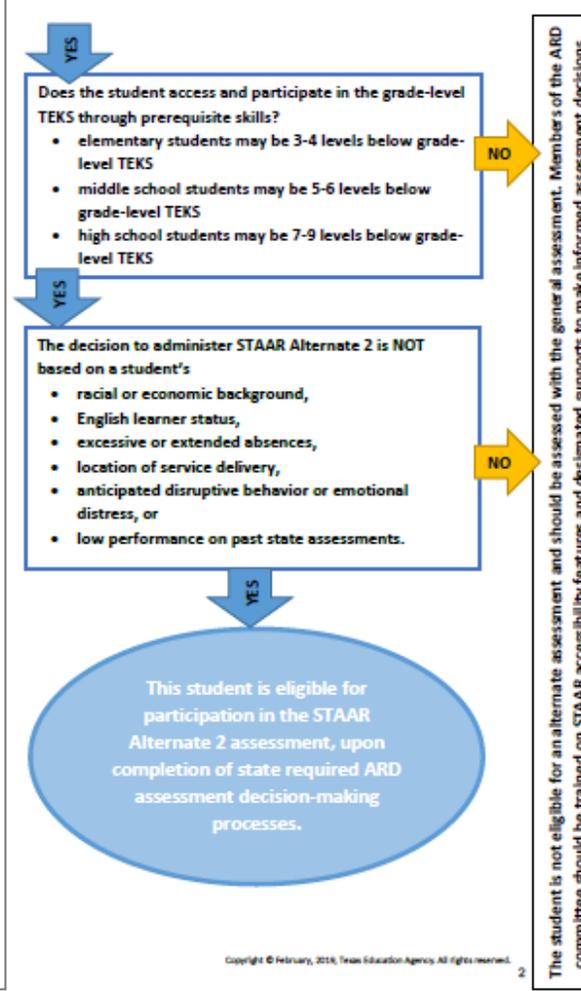




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STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements Companion Document

STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administration Resources

Use the links below to access STAAR Alternate 2 resources.

- [Allowable Accommodations for STAAR Alternate 2 \(PDF\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide \(PDF updated 11/01/18\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 and TELPAS Alternate Medical Exception Eligibility Requirements \(English PDF revised 11/26/18\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 and TELPAS Alternate Medical Exception Eligibility Requirements \(Spanish PDF posted 04/17/19\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 and TELPAS Alternate No Authentic Academic Response \(NAAR\) Eligibility Requirements \(English PDF revised 11/26/18\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 and TELPAS Alternate No Authentic Academic Response \(NAAR\) Eligibility Requirements \(Spanish PDF posted 04/17/19\)](#)
- [Participation Requirements \(English version, PDF revised 05/15/18\)](#)
- [Participation Requirements \(Spanish version, PDF revised 11/05/18\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements Companion Document \(PDF posted 02/01/19\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements Companion Document \(Spanish version, PDF posted 03/14/19\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 Released Tests \(Update 06/26/19\)](#)
- [STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual \(PDF updated 10/01/18\)](#)

https://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Testing/STAAR_Alternate/STAAR_Alternate_2_Resources

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STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Training

Training Topics

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Test Security
- Scheduling Test Administrations
- Preparation for Test Administration (Preview Window)
- Testing with Accommodations
- Monitoring Test Administrations
- Returning Materials to District Coordinator

Resources

- DCCR STAAR Alternate 2 section
- STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual non-secure
- STAAR Alternate 2 Educator Guide

Who should administer STAAR Alternate 2?

- Ideally, the student's teacher for the subject being tested because of a high level of familiarity with the student
 - Accommodations can be prepared and delivered appropriately
 - The student's typical response mode can be understood
- Paraprofessionals may serve as test administrators supervised by a certified professional on the same campus throughout the administration.
 - Trained in preparation of test materials and test administration procedures
 - Signed oath
- See additional options for test administrator in the District and Campus Coordinator Resource

Preview Window Actions

- Practice reading the script and following the presentation instructions for test administration
- Review the Scoring Instructions for test question and plan teacher assistance for items 2 and 3 in each cluster.
- Review the student booklet and image cards to plan and prepare accommodations for any student who may need an accommodation according to the guidelines outlines in "Allowable Accommodations" in the STAAR Alternate 2 Test Administrator Manual
- NOT a preteach period
 - Any presentation of materials or introduction of concepts or topics to a student prior to the administration of the test is considered a serious irregularity and should be reported as such.

Scheduling Test Administrator sessions

- No verification window
 - Final day to submit scores online 4/21/20.
- Each district may develop a local schedule for STAAR Alternate 2 assessments during the designated test administration window specified in the Calendar of Events.
- District or campus coordinator should communicate the schedule that test administrators should follow.

STAAR Alternate 2 is an untimed assessment that can be given over multiple sessions.

- Administer the assessment at a time that is most appropriate for a student;
 - Allowing breaks, as necessary;
 - Administering the test over several days with several sessions per day; or
 - Administering the test over several days, one session each day.
- Items are best tested with the entire four-item cluster intact, one cluster at a time. However, frequent breaks within the 4-item cluster may be required and necessary for some students.

Image Cards

- STAAR Alternate 2 must be administered with the student booklet
- Image cards are an optional tool used to
 - Support text with images
 - Present answer choices one at a time
- A test administrator may use image cards for multiple students;
 - Completely “clean” card
 - NO appearance of use whatsoever – no accommodations applied (e.g. highlighting, coloring, cropping, etc.)

Image Cards

- Test administrators should utilize image cards in the same way they previously accommodated the student booklet page.
- Image cards may be used with any student who needs them for accessibility.
- **EXAMPLES** of accommodations that image cards may replace:
 - Photocopying and then cutting apart answer choices in order to present answer choices one at a time
 - Photocopying and then cutting out an image to pair with text
 - Other accommodations that required photocopying and then making a “card” to assist with test administration
- Image cards have a number stamp on the back to correspond with test items.
- On rare occasions, test items do not have an accompanying image card due to nature of the stimulus.

Testing Environment

- Test administrators must prepare the environment for the administration of STAAR Alternate 2.
- STAAR Alternate 2 is administered to students in a one-on-one setting.
- Test sessions
 - must be conducted under the best possible conditions with minimal distractions
 - and in a setting that is arranged to maintain confidentiality of test material and responses of individual students.
- Districts with cameras in self-contained classrooms should use locally-developed policy which includes “penalties for prohibited conduct” in the event that a request is made to view video that was recorded during a test administration session

Entering Responses Online

- Students taking the STAAR Alternate 2 administration communicate answers directly to the test administrator.
- The test administrator records the student's response on the STAAR Alternate 2 Scoring Document based on scoring information provided for each item.
- The students' responses are then entered into the Assessment Management System.
- The district coordinator, campus coordinator, or other authorized personnel who have completed training and signed oath will enter scoring information into an online system.

Oath of Security and Confidentiality

“School districts and campuses, the superintendent and campus principals in each school district, open enrollment charter schools and campuses, and the chief administrative officer and campus principals of each charter school shall:

- (A) implement and ensure compliance with state test administration procedures and training activities;”
- Adherence to test administration and scoring procedures
- Maintain the fidelity of test administration and scoring procedures

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TEA's request for a limited waiver to assess more than 1% of students using an alternate assessment in the 2018-2019 school year in reading/language arts, science and mathematics was approved by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in March, 2019.

Based on state assessment data for Spring 2019, TEA will again be requesting a waiver for the 2019-2020 school year.

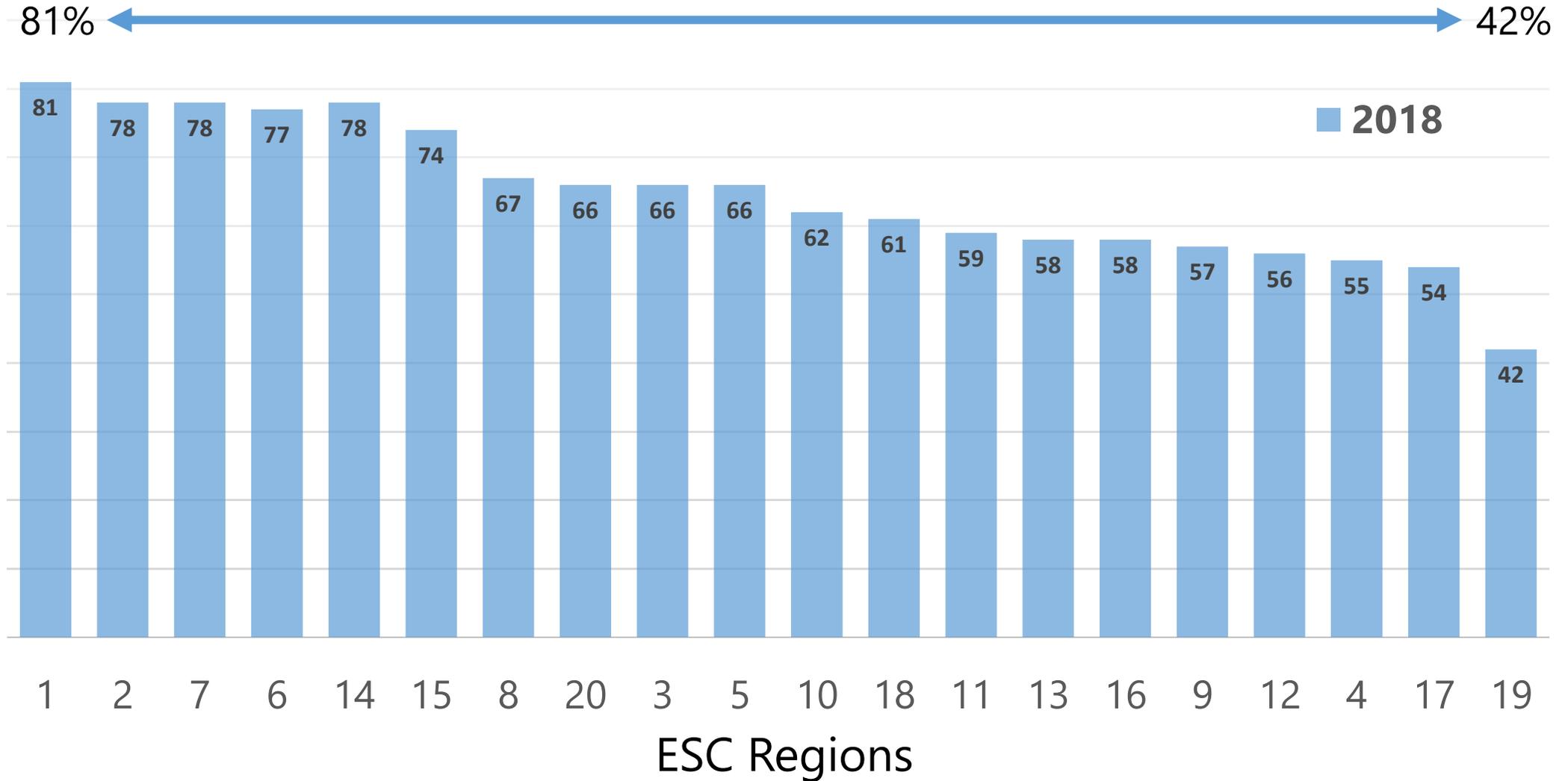


Federal Requirements: ESSA

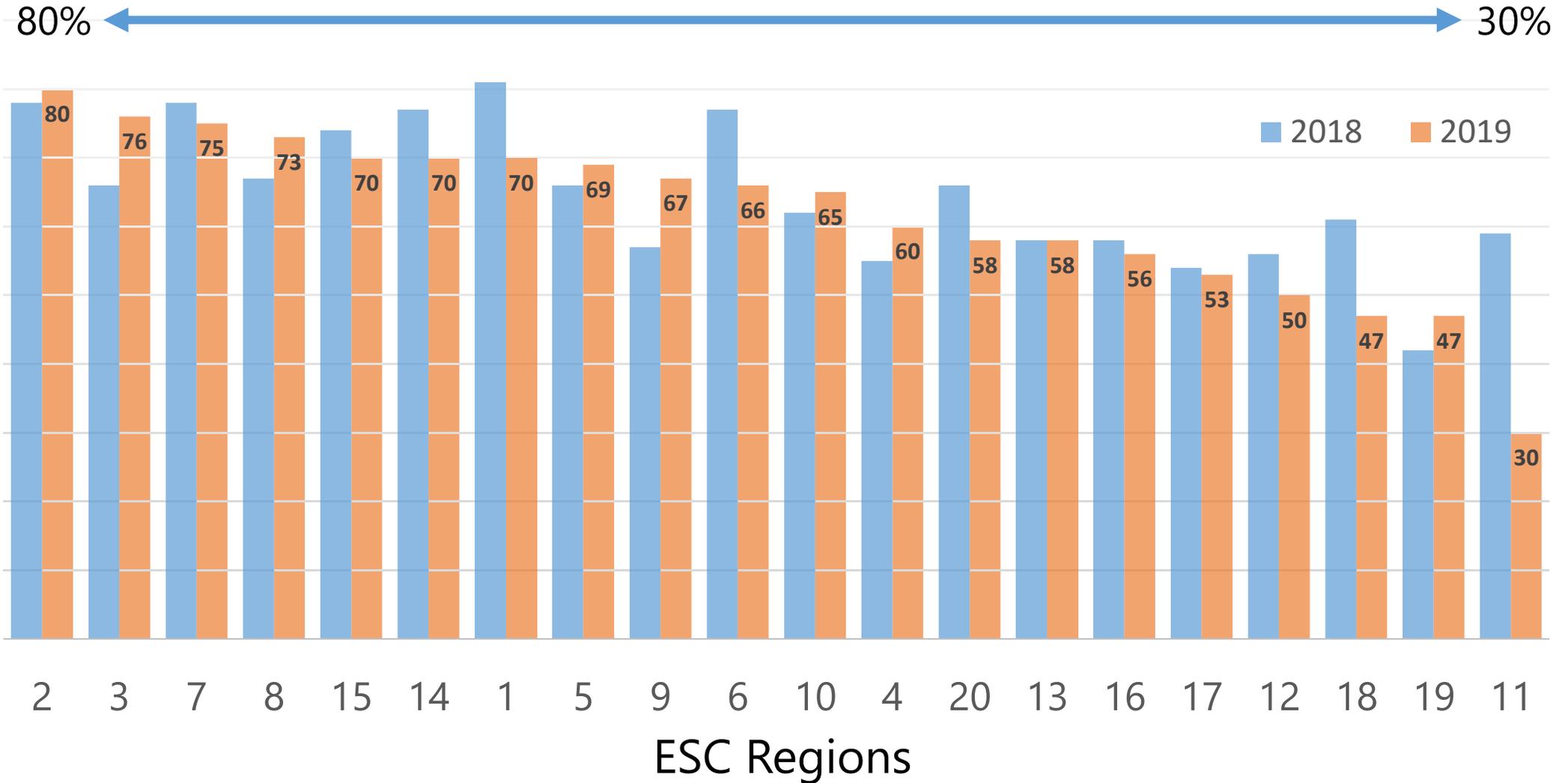
- In 2015, with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the requirements changed for alternate academic assessments by placing a 1% state cap on the participation rate.
- The 1% threshold applies to the state participation rate for each of the following content areas.
 - Reading/ELA
 - Math
 - Science
- The participation rate is based on the total number of all students in the state assessed in the content area.

$$\frac{\text{\# of students assessed with STAAR Alternate 2 in SUBJECT}}{\text{\# of ALL students assessed in SUBJECT}}$$

% of Districts Exceeding 1% Participation Rate



% of Districts Exceeding 1% Participation Rate



Statewide Student Participation Data

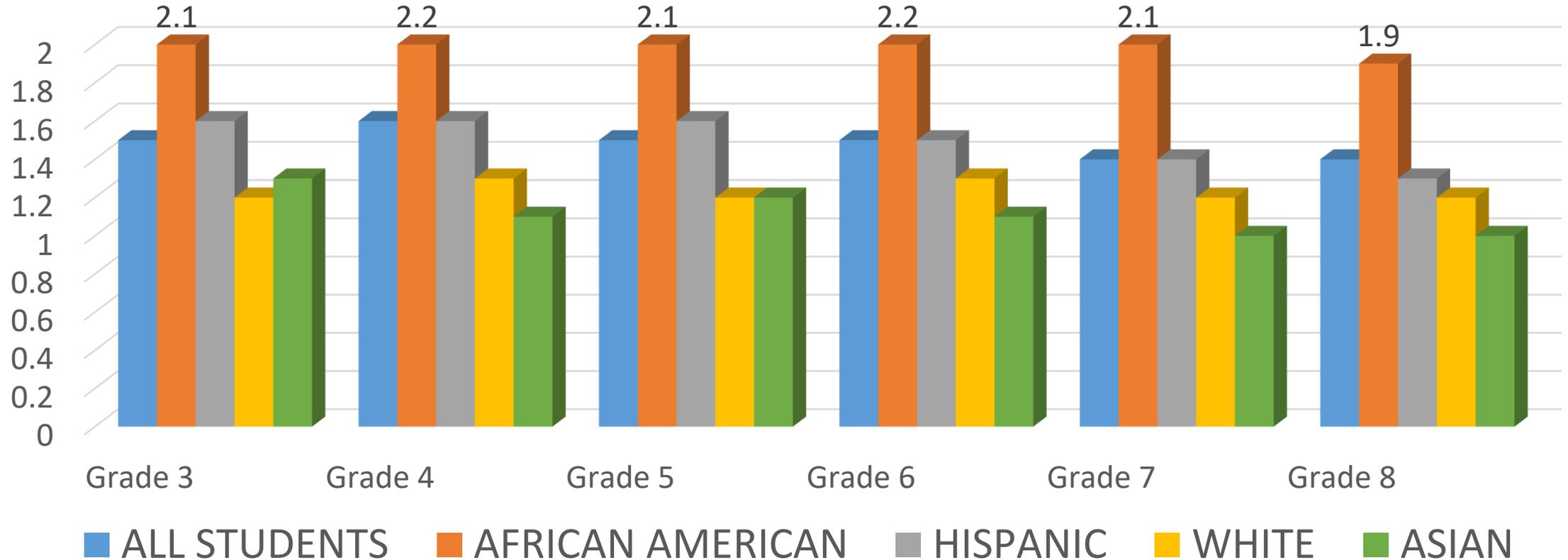
	Spring 2017		Spring 2018		Spring 2019	
Math Alternate	37,980		40,646		41,836	
All Students Math	2,807,473	1.4%	2,804,047	1.4%	2,821,402	1.5%
Reading/ELA Alternate	42,398		45,392		47,136	
All Students Reading ELA	3,522,895	1.2%	3,487,018	1.3%	3,584,899	1.3%
Science Alternate	15,305		16,780		16,984	
All Students Science	1,243,552	1.2%	1,271,379	1.3%	1,280,714	1.3%

Data provided by TEA allows districts over 1% to compare

- Subjects
- Grade level
- Race/Ethnicity/Gender
- Economically Disadvantaged
- English Learners (ELs)

Subgroup - Reading Participation Rates

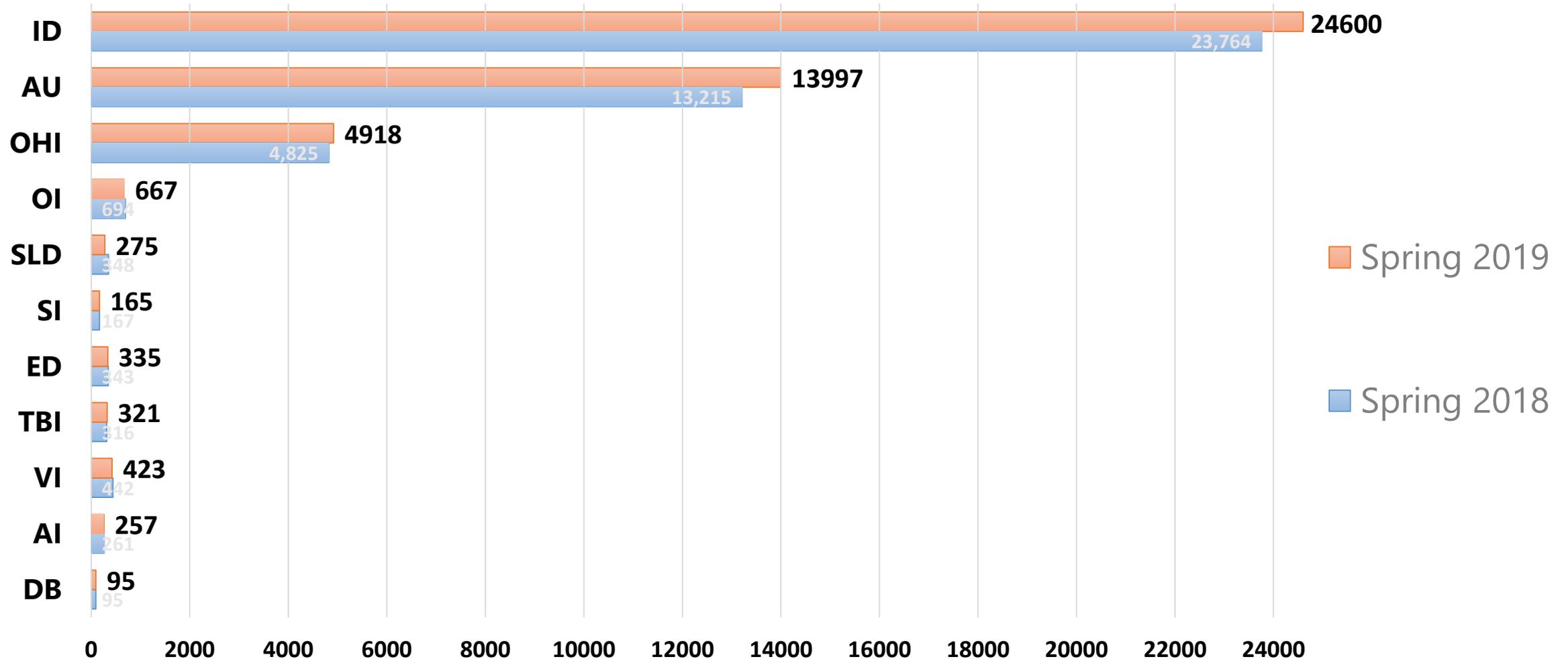
STUDENTS ASSESSED WITH READING STAAR ALTERNATE 2



Out of 18 subgroups (grade/subject), participation rates for African American students have increased by .1% each year since 2017 in 8/18 subgroups.

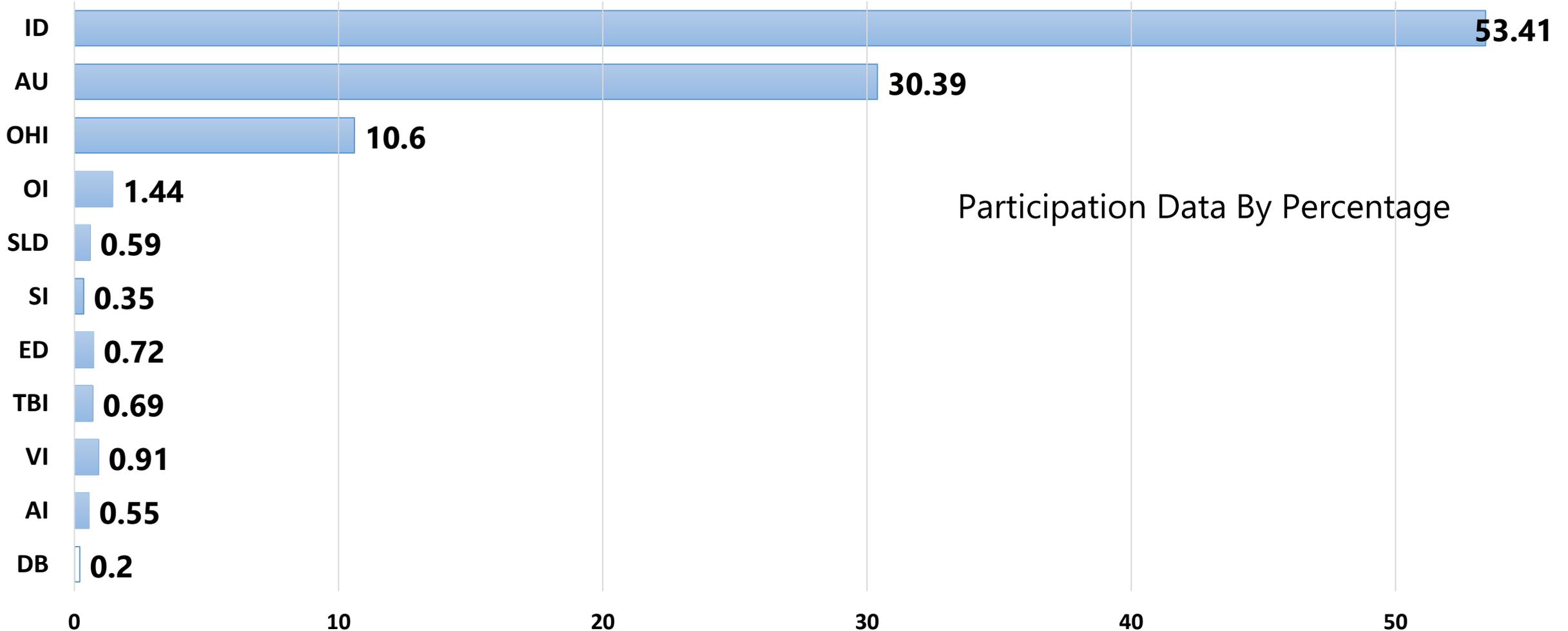


PRIMARY DISABILITY



State Disability Data STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Spring 2019

PRIMARY DISABILITY





STAAR Alternate 2 Waiver Request (3rd Year)

How to submit:

- 10/25/19 School districts/charters will receive an email notification indicating that based on 2018-2019 data the LEA assessed more than 1% of its assessed students with STAAR Alternate 2.
 - Email will include a PDF attachment of district/charter specific STAAR Alternate 2 participation data
 - Email will include a link to complete the waiver form.
- Email notification will be sent to the Superintendent of the school district or the Chief Administrative Official of the charter school and District Testing Coordinator.
- Person submitting the form will receive an email acknowledgement that the district's waiver information has been received.
- 11/22/19 Deadline to submit Justification/Assurances.

TEA's 2019 Plan to Address 1.0% Threshold

August, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of Spring 2019 participation data
January – September, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed “Addressing the 1% Participation Rate” for 18 regions
February, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Published STAAR Alternate 2 Participation Requirements Companion Document on STAAR Alternate 2 webpage
May – December, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with Office of Review and Support to monitor STAAR Alternate 2 participation rates through new SPED Indicator #4.
October, 2019-ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with TEA Special Populations team to deliver technical assistance to districts based on participation data.
October 25, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justification/Assurances email and online form to districts with participation rates over 1%
November, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAAR Alternate 2 Parent Resource to be posted on STAAR Alternate 2 webpage.
October, 2019 – January, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and publication of student profiles for STAAR Alternate 2 testers.
November 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline for district/charter schools to submit online Justification/Assurances documentation.

- Continued training on participation requirements
- Collaboration with the Special Education monitoring team
- New PBMAS indicator
 - Report only
 - Inform agency regarding support that should be provided to district

Meeting the 1% Threshold



Adherence to definition of significant cognitive disabilities and participation requirements



DISTRICT PARTICIPATION DATA TALKS
Trends in schools, grade patterns, etc.



DISTRICT DISABILITY DATA TALKS
“Who is currently taking STAAR Alternate 2?”



Professional development for ARD committees and other educators



Parent training for ARD committee decision making



Questions?



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For More Information

TEA's Student Assessment Division

512-463-9536

assessment.specialpopulations@tea.texas.gov

[STAAR Alternate 2](#) Webpage

[TELPAS Resources](#) Webpage

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