

March 1, 2019

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places a 1.0% statewide cap on student participation in alternate assessments. In April of 2018, the U.S. Department of Education approved a one-year waiver from this cap for Georgia for 2017-2018. (See [accountability](#), ESSA, *Georgia 1% Assessment Waiver* and *Georgia 1% Alternate Assessment Approval Letter*.) As required by the approved waiver, the GaDOE worked with districts during the 2017-2018 school year and continues to work with districts in the 2018-2019 school year to ensure that the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) is used to assess only those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Though district participation is not capped at 1%, districts that exceeded the 1% cap in 2017-2018 were required to provide justification to the Georgia Department of Education. Districts could choose from three standard justifications; additionally, districts could provide their own justifications and/or comments. Those justifications and/or comments are provided in the Excel worksheet that follows. As required by ESSA, the justifications are posted on the GaDOE website.



Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			Families of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities move to the LEA specifically to receive specialized services (Not typical student transfer)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities enroll in the LEA under Georgia Special Needs Scholarship/ State Bill 10 (SB10)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who live in a different LEA are reported in FTE to this LEA	Additional comment/ justification provided by district
601	Appling County	Yes	No	No	No	The Appling County School system has a group of students with varying disability eligibility categories that function in the lower end of the cognitive ability. The IEP committee determined that the GAA was the most appropriate method of evaluation for this group.
602	Atkinson County	Yes	No	No	No	Policies and procedures have been reviewed and new ones have been put into place. Any changes made at this time to some of our older students on a GAA, would be harmful.
761	Atlanta Public Schools	No				
603	Bacon County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
604	Baker County	Yes	No	No	No	Due to low enrollment and high percentage of special education population.
605	Baldwin County	Yes	No	No	No	Due to the severity and intensity of the multiple aspects of the student's disabilities, they are unable to test even with maximum accommodations. They require GAA testing.
606	Banks County	Yes	No	No	No	The IEP teams have met on each of these students and determined the alternative assessment best meets the needs of these students individually.
607	Barrow County	Yes	No	No	No	As part of our yearly oversight and management of the Georgia Alternate Assessment, the Barrow County School System employs a thorough vetting process for students proposed to be placed on the GAA. We ensure administrators and teachers are aware of the regulations regarding who can be placed on GAA. In addition, Barrow County School System uses GoIEP. This program includes a compliance piece that requires IEP committees to complete the GAA flow chart to ensure students meet the qualifications before being placed on this assessment. We encourage less of a focus on IQ scores and more on service delivery model and adaptive skills as IEP committees make decisions for each student.

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608	Bartow County	Yes	No	No	No	<p>During the 2017-2018 school year, Bartow County School System students participated in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA). 1.0% of Bartow County School System students participated in the ELA and Math GAA assessments. 1.1% Bartow County School System students participated in the Science GAA and 1.4% Bartow County School System students participated in the Social Studies GAA. The GAA Science and Social Studies participation rates exceed the statewide cap of 1.00% of students. The system had 75 students whom participated in the assessment, and all students were considered to exhibit the characteristics of a significant cognitive disability, per review of each student's individual evaluation results.</p> <p>The 75 students that participated in the GAA had a primary category of eligibility in one of the following areas: Mild Intellectual Disability, Moderate Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Other Health Impairment, or Significant Developmental Delay. Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determination of participation in the GAA was not simply based upon the student's disability category. To determine participation an IEP committee reviewed the students educational data and needs. The determination of participation was based on student needs and state criteria for participation. The committees determined the 75 students that participated in the administration of the GAA require instruction focused on application of state standards through relevant life skills. In addition, these students require substantial adaptations and support to access the general education curriculum.</p>
609	Ben Hill County	Yes	No	No	No	All students who are taking the GAA this school year are students who have been found eligible by their IEP teams to qualify for the GAA. All of these students are on the functional alternative curriculum as per their IEP and will need to be assessed using an alternate assessment.
610	Berrien County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
611	Bibb County	Yes	Yes	No	No	

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612	Bleckley County	Yes	Yes	No	No	With a smaller total enrollment, the impact of just a few students tends to make a greater impact on the data.
613	Brantley County	Yes	No	No	No	Based on the determination of the IEP team Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities participated in the GAA.
763	Bremen City	No				
614	Brooks County	Yes	No	No	No	Due to the transfer of regular education students out of the system, the enrollment has decreased below 1200 which would give the system a 1.0% participation rate.
615	Bryan County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
764	Buford City	No				
616	Bulloch County	Yes	No	No	No	Students identified to participate in the GAA are those who meet the eligibility criteria. Of the 76 students, 35 are in the categories of Moderate/Severe Profound Intellectual Disabilities and Autism. Front pages of their initial IEPs verify the early ages these students were placed into self-contained programs. Of the remaining 41 students in the other categories on GAA, 30 meet the criteria for Mild Intellectual Disabilities classification. Several of these students score on the borderline for the Moderate/Severe category. The progress of these students is being closely monitored by IEP committees and updated recommendations are made as needed.
617	Burke County	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
618	Butts County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
765	Calhoun City	Yes	No	No	Yes	We are a small independent city school system that has a very small total enrollment such that a few students tend to have a significant impact on the percentage of student participants. Total enrollment for grades that are eligible for GAA is 2197. Twenty seven students will participate in the GAA in grades 3-8 and 11. We have several students accessing the GAA that reside outside the District.

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619	Calhoun County	No				
620	Camden County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Not Applicable
621	Candler County	No				
622	Carroll County	Yes	No	No	No	A reduction in the students evaluated for the FY18 school year occurred. The total number of students evaluated decreased to 81 which resulted in a 1.04 percent participation overall.
766	Carrollton City	Yes	Yes	No	No	
767	Cartersville City	No				
623	Catoosa County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
624	Charlton County	Yes	No	No	No	The Charlton County School System is requesting an exception to the 1% cap on the number of GAA participants for the 2017-2018 school year. Charlton County has 881 students in the tested grades. A small number of these students are participating in this year's Georgia Alternative Assessment. Our school system has a small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the 1% cap.
626	Chattahoochee County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Due to our very small enrollment of 741 students being tested in grades 3-12 our system has exceeded our 1%. In addition, our unique population of military student transfers into our district throughout the school year, the number that meet the GAA requirements fluctuates.
627	Chattooga County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Chattooga county School System has many students transfer in each year on a GAA from previous system. Our system has a large number of special education students even though we are a small rural area. total enrollment is 2885. Total special education students' number is 518.
628	Cherokee County	No				

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769	Chickamauga City	Yes	Yes	No	No	
773	City Schools of Decatur	No				
629	Clarke County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
630	Clay County	No				
631	Clayton County	Yes	No	No	No	The GAA enrollment for Clayton County Public Schools will exceed 1.0% due to a high transient student population and a high traffic geographic location. The Clayton County Public Schools district has experienced a very high enrollment of out of state students who are in need of alternate state assessments. Additionally, Clayton County has specialized programs which attract parents of students with disabilities who may require a wider range of services. Lastly, our autism population is increasing annually due to higher clinical diagnoses.
632	Clinch County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
633	Cobb County	Yes	Yes	No	No	The Cobb County School District (CCSD) is requesting a waiver from the 1% of students eligible to participate in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA) for the 2017-18 school year. The CCSD has experienced a growth in students with disabilities (SWD) in one year. The data indicate that the district continues to experience an increase of 192 SWD between the October 2016 FTE count to the October 2017 FTE for a total of 14,931 SWD in the district. The data also indicate that CCSD has 2,443 students with a primary disability of Autism, Mild Intellectual Disabilities, or Moderate/Severe/Profound Intellectual Disabilities. As the district continues to grow and provide exemplary special education services to students with low incidence disabilities, it is anticipated that the CCSD it is anticipated that the CCSD will continue to slightly exceed the 1% mark for GAA.

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634	Coffee County	Yes	No	No	No	We anticipate we will exceed the 1% cap for GAA because all the students receiving this assessment meet the definition of significantly cognitively disabled.
635	Colquitt County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
636	Columbia County	No				
771	Commerce City	Yes	No	No	No	Commerce City schools have had an increase in enrollment.
637	Cook County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
638	Coweta County	Yes	No	No	No	The District has documented procedures in place to identify students who require an alternate assessment. These procedures follow the state guidelines for participation in the Georgia Alternative Assessment. District level staff closely monitor and provide support to Individualized Education Planning Teams in making these decisions for students. Parents of students participating in the alternate assessment are provided with information regarding all possible ramifications of participation in the alternate assessment as opposed to the standard Georgia Milestones Assessments.
639	Crawford County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
640	Crisp County	Yes	No	Yes	No	Crisp County currently has several students with significant cognitive disabilities enrolled under the Georgia Special Needs State Bill 10. We also currently had several students transfer in to our system already enrolled to participate in GAA.

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641	Dade County	Yes	No	No	No	Dade County has a very small total population. In grades K through 12, we have 2,145 students, as of our October 2017 FTE Count. One percent of that total number would be 21 students. In the school year 2017-2018 we will have 22 students in grades 3 through 11 take the GAA. If we were using our total enrollment of all grades, then we would only have exceeded the 1% by one student. As one can see from the worksheet that has been attached, in the grades that are considered in the one percent cap, Dade County does not have more than 175 students in any of these grades. That means that if we have more than one child to take the GAA in any of these grades, we will exceed the one percent of that grade level's enrollment. The most students we will have to take the GAA in any one grade is 5.
772	Dalton Public Schools	Yes	No	No	No	In the 2017-2018 school year, 1.03% of Dalton Public Schools students participated in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA), which exceeds the statewide cap of 1.00% of students. All students were considered to exhibit the characteristics of a significant cognitive disability, per review of each student's individual evaluation results.
642	Dawson County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Dawson County School System has a small number of students in the grades eligible to be served by GAA. With this small number, even one or two additions to the GAA program results in this percentage to escalate. A number of students who present with significant cognitive delays have dual disabilities and warrant the GAA assessment. Additionally, Dawson County does have a reputation in the RESA district for providing quality services to GAA students. This "word of mouth" reaches beyond our district border to attract parents of students with significant disabilities to relocate to our school system.

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643	Decatur County	Yes	No	No	No	All students participating in the Georgia Alternative Assessment program meets the Georgia Department of Education GAA Flow Chart criteria as determined by the IEP teams. Each IEP team clearly looks at each student thoroughly and ensures that the student meets the criteria before going to the step of implementing the GAA process to students in Decatur County. All special education teachers are thoroughly trained on how to read the flow chart and use both the special education director and the assessment director as resources.
644	DeKalb County	Yes	No	No	No	DeKalb/Rockdale GNETS has a limited amount of GAA portfolios that are included in this 1% calculation.  DeKalb County School District changed grade placement for high school students to address course requirements for graduation. This has increased the number of 11th graders being assessed by GAA.  These factors combine to create a situation where the students participating in the GAA exceed the 1% cap. The IEP teams making these testing recommendations are carefully trained to consider the appropriateness of the GAA for each student.
891	Department of Juvenile Justice	No				
645	Dodge County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
646	Dooly County	Yes	No	No	No	The anticipated GAA enrollment exceeds the 1.0% for the LEA because of the small total enrollment in each grade. For example one student participating in GAA in a grade level with less than 100 students enrolled calculates to more than 1.0%.

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647	Dougherty County	Yes	No	No	No	After a review of student records, this percentage is due to the increased number of students with Disabilities transferring into the district with GAA as their method of Assessment on their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of students meeting eligibility in the categories that requires GAA as their method of Assessment.
648	Douglas County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
774	Dublin City	Yes	No	No	No	Our system has a very small population such that the GAA population of students has a significant impact on the percentages.
649	Early County	No				
650	Echols County	Yes	No	No	No	The Echols County School District only administers the GAA to students that meet qualifications.
651	Effingham County	Yes	No	No	No	Currently, our GAA population stands at 87. We are over the allotted 1% by 22 students. In an effort to alleviate the overage, our school psychologists have reviewed and discussed the requirements for placement in GAA. They are also looking at IQ and adaptive behavior scores more closely to ensure significant deficits are clearly evident. In the future we will also be considering the use of maximum accommodations in order to retain students on a general education testing track. Our efforts to this point have shown a decrease in our overall percentage from last year.
652	Elbert County	Yes	No	No	No	Elbert does not have additional reasons for exceeding the 1.0% by .52%.
653	Emanuel County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
654	Evans County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided

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655	Fannin County	Yes	No	No	No	Fannin County has established compliant procedures and processes for IEP teams to determine which assessments are appropriate for students with disabilities. As a general rule, GAA determinations are made after students have turned 9 years old. We follow the guidelines set forth by the GaDOE to determine student eligibility for GAA. Recently we have experienced an increase in students who have been identified as having Autism or cognitive disabilities combined with sensory and communication disabilities that necessitate their participation in a functional curriculum.
656	Fayette County	No				
657	Floyd County	No				
658	Forsyth County	No				
659	Franklin County	Yes	No	No	No	We have a significant number of low-functioning autistic and cognitively disabled students enrolled in our school district.
660	Fulton County	No				
776	Gainesville City	Yes	No	No	No	We believe that we exceed the cap due to the size of our district. Our total SWD population is less than 10%. Therefore, a few students that participate in the GAA as opposed to standard assessments can cause us to exceed the 1% cap.
661	Gilmer County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
662	Glascocock County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
663	Glynn County	No				
664	Gordon County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
665	Grady County	Yes	No	No	No	The GAA assessment is a better assessment tool to assess, monitor and support the needs of this group of students.

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666	Greene County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Greene County Schools GAA trend data shows our enrollment numbers as being consistent, ranging from 21-24 for the FY16-FY18, with an enrollment of 22 in FY18. However, in a small rural school district with only 1235 students enrolled in the GAA counted grades, 22 GAA students causes us to exceed the state 1% cap by 0.78%. Our overall enrollment data for the past three years reveals a decline, while our GAA enrollment has maintained consistency. It is for these reasons that Greene County Schools will exceed the 1% GAA participation cap for FY18.
726	Griffin-Spalding County	Yes	No	No	No	All students receiving an adaptive curriculum were appropriately assessed using the Georgia Alternative Assessment.
667	Gwinnett County	No				
668	Habersham County	Yes	No	No	No	Several students have transferred into Habersham School System this school year having GAA as the method for testing in their IEPs. Reviews of these IEPs recommendations for GAA have been completed by our school system. The reviews indicate the GAA testing recommendations were appropriate for these students and meet the GAA guidelines provided by the GaDOE.
669	Hall County	Yes	No	No	No	Hall County monitors the GAA participation procedures and IEP team decisions very carefully. Students are placed on GAA based on the GAA Participation Guidelines provided by the DOE. The individual student IEPs document the need for GAA participation.
670	Hancock County	Yes	No	No	No	The overall GAA percentage for the 2017 - 2018 school years was 3.73%. The current GAA percentage is 3.98%. The percentage has increased by 0.25% for the 2018-2019 school year. Although we are a small district, we ensure students with disabilities are educated in their least restrictive environment.

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671	Haralson County	Yes	No	No	No	We are a small system with a high poverty rate. Significant disabilities are often more common among high poverty populations. When combined with our small overall number of students, each GAA student increases our percentage by .057%. We adhere to the state rubrics and do not feel that our GAA percentage of 1.77% indicates over identification or represents a disproportionality problem among our student population.
672	Harris County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
673	Hart County	Yes	No	No	No	Students transferring into the system having significant cognitive disabilities and IEPs stating the need for GAA caused the percentage to exceed 1%.
674	Heard County	Yes	No	No	Yes	
675	Henry County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
676	Houston County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
677	Irwin County	Yes	Yes	No	No	We have a large number of students at the elementary school level taking the GAA which has increased over the past few years.
678	Jackson County	Yes	No	No	No	Jackson County Schools is committed to ensuring our students are appropriately assessed utilizing the best assessment. We anticipate that we will exceed the 1% mark established by the State. However, we have decreased the number of students taking the Alternate Assessment over the last three years. This is due, in part, to our formalized procedures and a rigorous review of eligibility determination. We plan to continue to improve and revise our procedures regarding this assessment.

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679	Jasper County	Yes	No	No	No	FY 18 GAA testing population  Jasper County Charter System has 1,211 student enrolled in grades 3-8 and 11. We currently have 15 students whose IEP team has determined that GAA is the appropriate assessment for each. This represents 1.24% of the testing population for specified grades. The small numbers within our district have a tremendous impact on the percentage.
680	Jeff Davis County	Yes	No	No	No	Our number has increased partially due to transfers. In addition, we have an unusually large group of students in one grade who meet the criteria for participation on a GAA.
779	Jefferson City	Yes	Yes	No	No	The total student enrollment at Jefferson City Schools is 3,856, including pre-kindergarten students. The overall percentage of special education students is about 10.5%. Of this 10.5%, only 25 students were identified to take the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA). As a result, the total on the FY2019 GAA 1% Calculation Worksheet is over the 1% cap because the small total population of special education students has a significant impact on the percentages.
681	Jefferson County	Yes	No	No	No	The students who have been required to participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment Program meet criteria for such participation as deemed by their IEP Committees; the district went through the proper process to determine the appropriate testing environment for all of these students.
682	Jenkins County	Yes	No	No	No	Jenkins County is a small system and the GAA 1.0% participation cap can be easily exceeded dependent upon student grade placement.
683	Johnson County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
684	Jones County	Yes	Yes	No	No	

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685	Lamar County	Yes	No	No	No	According to our students' data, we have more than 1% of the tested population of students requiring an alternative curriculum and an alternative format for assessments. Also these student's are eligible for participating in the alternative assessment based on their present levels of performance, their data indicating their need for specialized instruction, and a presence of a significant cognitive impairment as determined by their IEP team members.
686	Lanier County	Yes	No	No	No	All students participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment meet the enrollment criteria. The Lanier County Schools population is small and a few students can change the percentages significantly.
687	Laurens County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Laurens County has seen a significant increase in students with most significant cognitive disabilities move into our district.
688	Lee County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
689	Liberty County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
690	Lincoln County	Yes	No	No	No	N/A
691	Long County	Yes	No	No	No	All students reported as eligible for the Georgia Alternate Assessment have been identified with significant cognitive disabilities and found to be eligible based on the state guidelines. Due to the number of students identified, Long County Schools will exceed the 1% GAA participation.
692	Lowndes County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
693	Lumpkin County	Yes	No	No	No	We have a higher population of students whose cognitive abilities meet the state criteria for GAA participation.
694	Macon County	Yes	No	No	No	The students that are being administered the GAA have significant cognitive disabilities, and the IEP team has determined the students are unable to reasonably participate in the regular assessment program.

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695	Madison County	Yes	No	No	No	Madison County is a rural, low wealth district. We serve all students with disabilities living in Madison County as there are no other programs or resources available for families within this county. Our Special Education program has an excellent reputation and many families move to Madison County so their child can benefit from the excellent services our School System provides.
781	Marietta City	No				
696	Marion County	Yes	No	No	No	Marion County has a small student enrollment which causes our percentages to seem greater and thus having a significant impact on our percentages.
697	McDuffie County	Yes	No	No	No	Last year, several students who were already scheduled to be assessed using the GAA moved into the district. These students remain in the district this year. After students' annual reviews, the IEP teams determined the GAA was still the most appropriate assessment for these students. Additionally, the district's overall enrollment has declined in 2017-18; however, the number of GAA students moving from grade 10 in 2016-17 to grade 11 in 2017-18 increased. Based on this information, we are requesting an exception to the cap.
698	McIntosh County	Yes	No	No	No	Each of these students have multiple eligibility issues that impact their ability to take the Georgia Milestone Tests.
699	Meriwether County	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
700	Miller County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
701	Mitchell County	Yes	No	No	No	The Mitchell County School System (MCSS) is requesting an exception to the 1% cap on the number of GAA participant scores that may be included in CCRPI determinations relative to overall enrollment in the grades tested. The MCSS has determined that the total (1.8%) exceeds the 1% cap because our system has a very small population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages.

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			Families of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities move to the LEA specifically to receive specialized services (Not typical student transfer)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities enroll in the LEA under Georgia Special Needs Scholarship/ State Bill 10 (SB10)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who live in a different LEA are reported in FTE to this LEA	Additional comment/ justification provided by district
702	Monroe County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
703	Montgomery County	No				
704	Morgan County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
705	Murray County	Yes	No	No	No	There are always students who move into and out of the district throughout the year who are assessed using GAA; therefore the percentage can change slightly.
706	Muscogee County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
707	Newton County	Yes	No	No	No	Newton County School System requests an exception to the 1% cap on student participation in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) that may be included in accountability determinations relative to the overall enrollment in the grades tested. We continue to examine statistical data concerning our Special Education Program in an effort to determine a rationale for the percentage of students on GAA to be above 1%. All records have been examined to ensure GAA participation aligns to program requirements. Over the last five years, we have observed an increase in the number of students classified as significantly cognitively disabled. We continue to make every effort to ensure students are assessed with the appropriate instrument.
708	Oconee County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
709	Oglethorpe County	Yes	No	No	No	Each IEP committee annually considers the needs of the student when determining the appropriate assessment in which the student will participate. If an alternate assessment is being considered a series of questions must be answered and documented to ensure that the student meets the criteria for participation in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA).
710	Paulding County	Yes	No	No	No	The number of students assessed using the GAA exceeded the 1% participation cap; however, the district can assure that all students participating in the GAA qualified based upon adherence to the GAA guidelines.

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711	Peach County	Yes	No	No	No	GAA enrollment will exceed 1.0% participation due to a large number of students who will test this school year, but did not test last school year due to their grade level.
784	Pelham City	Yes	No	No	No	Pelham City Schools has a small number of total students enrolled for tested grades (728), which causes each GAA student to have a greater effect on the total percentage of students tested using the GAA.
712	Pickens County	Yes	No	No	No	Pickens County Schools has reviewed its policies, practices, and procedures for placing students with intellectual disabilities in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA). However, the school system continues to exceed the 1% cap for enrollment in the GAA. Pickens County Schools continues to receive students with significant intellectual disabilities from other counties which has increased the number of students assessed by the GAA. The system will continue to monitor the placement of students on the GAA to ensure that these students are given every opportunity to be assessed by the GA Milestones and the EOCs.
713	Pierce County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
714	Pike County	Yes	Yes	No	No	The ASCEND program is located in our county and has caused an increased enrollment of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The ASCEND program provides residential care to children and youth with a development disability along with a mental health diagnosis in need of residential care.
715	Polk County	Yes	No	No	No	PSD adhered to the GAA participation guidelines for the determination of all students participating in the GAA.
716	Pulaski County	Yes	No	No	No	Because we have such a small population of tested students, the number of GAA students drastically increase the percentage.

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717	Putnam County	Yes	Yes	No	No	Putnam considers each individual student and the needs of the student when making IEP decisions concerning assessments. The system uses the state created guidance and flow cart to make determinations which are in the best interest of the student. At this time, our current population warrants the number of students we have participating in the alternate assessment. The system has decreased the number of participants over the last three years.
718	Quitman County	No				
719	Rabun County	Yes	Yes	No	No	11% of the students participating in GAA moved to Rabun County with a previous eligibility that noted they would participate in an alternative assessment.
720	Randolph County	No				
721	Richmond County	No				

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722	Rockdale County	Yes	No	No	No	<p>The decision to administer GAA is based on multiple sources of measurable, objective evidence, including, but not limited to current IEP Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance statements, goals and/or objectives, report cards, progress reports, work samples, teacher observations, full and individual evaluations, standardized achievement test results, and classroom, district, and statewide assessment results.</p> <p>This decision is NOT based solely on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Previous performance on statewide assessment.</li> <li>•Disability category</li> <li>•Racial or economic background</li> <li>•Excessive or extended absences</li> <li>•Amount of time or location of service delivery</li> <li>•Administratively based federal accountability requirements</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately, the decision to administer GAA is made by the IEP team, based on a comprehensive review of the student's educational needs.</p>
785	Rome City	Yes	No	Yes	No	<p>The total for the GAA exceeds 1% for Rome City Schools because all students participating in the GAA meet the following state guidelines: 1) Have a disability that presents "unique and significant" challenges to participation in statewide assessments regardless of available accommodations; 2) Have significant intellectual disabilities or a combination of intellectual disabilities with motor, sensory, or emotional behavior disabilities; 3) Require substantial adaptations and support to access the general education curriculum; 4) Require instruction focused on application of state standards through adaptive instruction.</p>
625	Savannah-Chatham County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
723	Schley County	Yes	No	No	Yes	

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724	Screven County	Yes	No	No	No	Percentage totals exceed the 1% cap because our system has a very small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages.
725	Seminole County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
786	Social Circle City	Yes	Yes	No	No	We are a small school system with only one high school, one middle school, one elementary and one primary; which many of our families feel best meet the needs of their students.
7820212	State Charter Schools- Cherokee Charter A	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
7820618	State Charter Schools- Coastal Plains Chart	No				
7820617	State Charter Schools- Dubois Integrity Aca	Yes	No	No	No	In FY18, Du Bois Integrity Academy had 699 students at October's FTE which would make 1% equal 6.9 students. Students at DuBois Integrity Academy who take the GAA are based on the student's academic and cognitive level data.
7820613	State Charter Schools- Foothills Charter Hig	No				
7820412	State Charter Schools- Georgia Connections	Yes	No	No	Yes	
7820120	State Charter Schools- Georgia Cyber Acad	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Georgia Cyber Academy supports multiple counties across the state of Georgia and therefore has a high number of students enrolled with significant cognitive disabilities who require and receive specialized services.
7820616	State Charter Schools- Georgia School for I	No				
7830410	State Charter Schools II- Atlanta Heights Ch	No				
7830613	State Charter Schools II- Brookhaven Innov	No				
7830611	State Charter Schools II- Cirrus Charter Aca	No				
7830610	State Charter Schools II- Coweta Charter Ac	No				
7830310	State Charter Schools II- Fulton Leadership	No				

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7830615	State Charter Schools II- Genesis Innovation	No				
7830616	State Charter Schools II- Genesis Innovation	No				
7830619	State Charter Schools II- International Acad	No				
7830614	State Charter Schools II- Liberty Tech Chart	No				
7830210	State Charter Schools II- Pataula Charter Ac	Yes	Yes	No	No	
7830617	State Charter Schools II- Resurgence Hall C	No				
7830618	State Charter Schools II- SAIL Charter Acad	Yes	No	No	No	SAIL is a small Charter School. The few students who participate on GAA will put us over the 1%.
7830612	State Charter Schools II- Southwest Georgia	No				
7830103	State Charter Schools II- Statesboro STEAM	No				
7820614	State Charter Schools- International Charter	No				
7820612	State Charter Schools- Ivy Preparatory Acad	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
7820108	State Charter Schools- Mountain Education	No				
7820110	State Charter Schools- Odyssey Charter Sc	No				
7820615	State Charter Schools- Scintilla Charter Aca	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided
7820121	State Charter Schools- Utopian Academy fo	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided

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7991893	State Schools- Atlanta Area School for the Deaf	Yes	No	No	Yes	The Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) is a day school operated by the Georgia Department of Education which is solely focused on meeting the unique needs of students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Every AASD student has some degree of hearing loss while many also have significant cognitive disabilities with sensory or physical impairments. Every enrolled student has an individualized education program to address their academic needs because of their disabilities. Although the class sizes are small at AASD, the school accepts referrals and placements of students from numerous school districts, particularly those from rural areas, whose local systems are unable to provide the extensive services needed for students with low incidence disabilities. That is the reason why the number of students tested via the Georgia Alternate Assessment exceed 1% for the local education agency (LEA).

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7991894	State Schools- Georgia Academy for the Blind	Yes	No	No	Yes	<p>The Georgia Academy for the Blind is a residential school serving students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities from all over the state. Every student we serve has an individualized education plan which means our population is 100% Students with Disabilities (SWD). A majority of our students (51%) are served within our program for students with multiple disabilities and most are tested via the Georgia Alternate Assessment. These students typically have two or more eligibility categories including cognitive disabilities and additional sensory or physical disabilities.</p> <p>We are the only school in Georgia focused solely on meeting the unique needs of students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities. As such, we attract a large number of referrals and placements of students, particularly those from rural areas whose local systems are unable to provide extensive services for low incidence disabilities. Additionally, we often have parents who elect to move to this area solely to request placement consideration as a day student. It is for this reason that we are seeking an exception to the 1% cap.</p>
7991895	State Schools- Georgia School for the Deaf	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
727	Stephens County	Yes	No	No	No	We are requesting an exception to the 1% Cap on GAA assessments/scores. Our system has a small total population so that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. The total number of special education students in grades K – 12 is 522. The total number of students with significant cognitive disabilities is 17.9% of our total special education population.
728	Stewart County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
729	Sumter County	Yes	No	No	No	Sumter County Schools exceeds the 1.0% participation because we have a large number of students with cognitive disabilities.

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			Families of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities move to the LEA specifically to receive specialized services (Not typical student transfer)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities enroll in the LEA under Georgia Special Needs Scholarship/ State Bill 10 (SB10)	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who live in a different LEA are reported in FTE to this LEA	Additional comment/ justification provided by district
730	Talbot County	No				
731	Taliaferro County	Yes	No	No	No	The total for Taliaferro Co exceeds the 1% cap because our system has such a very small total population that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. Listing any numbers, of students or percentages, will violate FERPA.
732	Tattnall County	Yes	No	No	No	Tattnall County has a significantly large population of students identified as MOID/SID/PID and Autistic.
733	Taylor County	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
734	Telfair County	Yes	No	No	No	Telfair County School system has reviewed eligibility information and current IEP on all students participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment. The committee determined that each child does have a significant cognitive disability that meets requirements for the GAA.
735	Terrell County	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided

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736	Thomas County	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The Thomas County School District offers many programs for special needs students which are not available in the smaller surrounding school districts. Many physicians refer the parents of special needs students to Thomas County's Hand-In-Hand Primary School because it offers South Georgia's only reverse inclusion program for pre-kindergarten age children. Once enrolled in Thomas County's pre-kindergarten program, most students maintain their enrollment through the remainder of their school career. Thomas County was recognized by the State Special Education Department in 2017 as a leader in special education. Thomas County has an extensive adaptive technology program and widely recognized community partnerships to allow special needs students to maximize their potential. For its many specialized programs, Thomas County attracts families with special needs children. Eighteen percent of the district's GAA students reside outside the school district. This number does not account for students whose families move into the district in order to attain automatic enrollment in Thomas County Schools. Therefore, we believe that our exemplary special education program attracts special needs students who are appropriately placed on the GAA, causing the system to exceed 1% for the LEA.
745	Thomaston-Upson County	Yes	No	No	No	Every GAA student has been through the prescribed RTI and Special Education Eligibility process. The IEP Teams have found the students' significant cognitive deficits impair them showing what they know on a general assessment using accommodations.
789	Thomasville City	Yes	No	No	No	Thomasville City Schools is a small district with an overall enrollment of less than 3,000 students. Our small enrollment numbers mean that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. Our percentage of GAA tested students exceeds the 1% cap by 0.23%; therefore, we are requesting an exception to the 1% cap.

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737	Tift County	No				
738	Toombs County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
739	Towns County	Yes	No	No	No	This total exceeds the 1% cap because our system has a very small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages.
740	Treutlen County	Yes	No	No	No	For our LEA, there were typical transfers which included students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who had begun their GAA assessment in another LEA but completed it in our district after the initial count was reported.
791	Trion City	No				
741	Troup County	Yes	No	No	No	SWD enrollment has increased for the 2017-2018 school year. Currently we have 83 students identified with an intellectual disability which is 8% of our total SWD count. Last year, we had 74 students with an intellectual disability which was 7% of our total SWD's. Due to the increased enrollment of SWD's this has increased those students who will be assessed using the GAA. IEP Team utilized the decision graphic organizer from the Georgia Department of Education entitled "Guidelines for Participation in the GAA". Each student identified on this list has it documented in their IEP that they will be assessed using the GAA, with an explanation as to the reason why. Eighty Eight is 1.38 % of the total population that will be assessed through GMAS for the 2017-18 school year.
742	Turner County	Yes	No	No	No	Policies, practices, and procedures have been reviewed. Some of the students have moved into our district and others are evaluated and provided the best education and assessment based on their least restrictive environment and intellectual abilities.

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743	Twiggs County	Yes	No	No	No	The overall GAA percentage for the 2016-2017 school year was 3.21%. The anticipated GAA percentage for the 2017-2018 school year is 2.93%. Although, this is greater than the recommended 1%, we still strive to insure that our testing decisions are made in accordance with the guidelines set forth for GAA participation. Our decisions concerning least restrictive environment continue to be based on the needs of our children and our responsibility to ensure that they are educated in their least restrictive environment. The students selected to participate in the GAA are students that demonstrate a significant cognitive disability as determined by an IEP team.
744	Union County	No				
792	Valdosta City	Yes	No	No	No	Valdosta City Schools (VCS) is requesting an exception for the GAA 1% participation cap. Our total GAA participation exceeds the 1% cap due to the presence of a residential treatment facility, within our city limits, which serves school-aged students with significant cognitive disabilities. This facility accepts patients from all over the state of Georgia as well as out of state residents. Students from this facility attend and receive services at schools within the VCS district, which has a significant impact on our overall GAA participation percentages. Thus, we have exceeded the 1% participation cap for GAA and would ask that you consider granting our system an exception.
793	Vidalia City	Yes	No	No	No	No justification provided

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746	Walker County	Yes	No	No	No	Walker County currently has a total of 80 students in grades where GAA is used as the assessment. This is approximately 1.72% of our total student population. Of the total numbers of students to be assessed on GAA in the coming year, 34% are eligible in the category of Mild Intellectually Disabled, 29% are eligible in the category of Autism, 31% are eligible in the category Moderate / Severe Intellectually Disabled, and the remainder fall into various other categories of eligibility. The IEP team determines if a student meets the eligibility criteria for being assessed on GAA.
747	Walton County	Yes	No	No	No	All the students from Walton County that participate in the GAA for 2017-2018 are students that have cognitive functioning and/or adaptive functioning and academic functioning in the intellectually disabled range. This includes those students that do not have an intellectual disability as their primary area of disability. Overall 32 of the 93 GAA students in Walton County have a primary disability other than intellectual disability, but function in the intellectually disabled range.

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748	Ware County	Yes	Yes	No	No	The Ware County Board of Education is fortunate in that we provide a full range of services to students with significant cognitive disabilities. We employ highly qualified teachers, specialists, and therapists with specific skills in offering these students a quality education with all supports and services required for them to access the Georgia Standards of Excellence and to make progress in both the curriculum and their Individual Education Program (IEP) goals. The Ware County School System, located in a rural area of Southeast Georgia, is one of the few to have this full range of services for students with significant cognitive disabilities. We offer self-contained classrooms for students with autism taught by teachers with specialized training in this area. We also have an Assistive Technology team, which has been in place since 1998, as well as school-based occupational and physical therapy services. Lastly, our system provides additional support for students with autism through an on-going contract with an independent service provider. Neighboring systems do not have all of these services, and as a result, families who are moving into the area often locate within our school district. The closest system comparable to our system with regard to the range of services for these students is over 60 miles away from our district. Parents routinely call before relocating their family to investigate which school system has the services their child requires as outlined on an IEP, and most often these families choose to live within the Ware County limits so their child can receive crucial services. It is not possible to give an actual number of students who fall into this category as we do not track the data in this manner. We believe this to be a personal family decision and through our parent reporting, we know that families from outside counties are taking advantage of opportunities for services in our county.
749	Warren County	Yes	No	No	No	Due to small overall enrollment numbers even when we have a small number of GAA students we easily go over the 1% limit.

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750	Washington County	Yes	No	No	No	The number of students participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment for the 2017-2018 school year in Washington County is above 1% (2.84%). Forty-eight students are participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment this year in our system. IEP committees continue to carefully review goals, present levels of performance, and results of previous assessments to form appropriate plans for assessing each of the system's students with special needs. For all of our GAA students, their IEP committees determined that even with maximum accommodations, participation in regular assessments is not appropriate.
751	Wayne County	Yes	Yes	No	No	
752	Webster County	Yes	No	No	No	Due to their documented disabilities, assessing these students using the Georgia Alternative Assessment provides a more accurate reflection of our students performance in relation to state standards.
753	Wheeler County	Yes	No	No	No	The Wheeler County School System has a very small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentage. As previously stated, any students who transfer into our district already determined to require the GAA will most likely push the LEA above the 1% cap.
754	White County	Yes	No	No	No	Thorough consideration is given prior to GAA participation, which includes a review of the students IEP, goals and objectives, services, and present level. The students who participate in GAA are appropriately identified using the rubric and represent more that 1% of total enrollment which has declined since last year and our GAA population participation remains consistent.
755	Whitfield County	Yes	No	No	No	Whitfield County has a high number of students who meet the GAA criteria.

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756	Wilcox County	Yes	No	No	No	There are roughly 90-100 students per each grade level. The students that are tested using GAA have been enrolled in our school system for multiple years. The students tested using GAA meet the criteria outlined in the GADOE assessment handbook and on their individual education plans.
757	Wilkes County	Yes	No	No	No	This total exceeds the 1 percent cap because our system has a very small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages.
758	Wilkinson County	Yes	No	No	No	Students placed on GAA are a specific group of students who have met assessment criteria based on the individual needs of the students' assessment capabilities.
759	Worth County	Yes	No	No	No	The anticipated GAA enrollment exceeds the 1% cap because we have had an increase in our enrollment rate of students with significant cognitive disabilities. These student's demonstrated cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior across all settings is significantly below age expectations, even with program modifications, adaptations, and accommodations.