

March 11, 2020

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places a 1.0% statewide cap on student participation in alternate assessments. In April 2019, the U.S. Department of Education approved a one-year waiver from this cap for Georgia for 2018-2019. (See [accountability](#), ESSA, 2019 *Georgia's 1% Assessment Waiver* and 2019 *Georgia's 1% Alternate Assessment Approval Letter*.) As required by the approved waiver, the GaDOE worked with districts during the 2018-2019 school year and continues to work with districts in the 2019-2020 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 2018-2019 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%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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	1.7	1.7	3.2	2.8	N	N	N	The ACSS currently has more than 1% of students participating in state mandated assessments that exhibit significant cognitive disabilities in addition that function academically at a level that is significantly below expectation and similar to students with significant cognitive impairments. The IEP teams have determined that the GAA 2.0 is the appropriate state mandated assessment for these students.
602	Atkinson County	Yes	1.6	1.6	2.4	2.4	N	N	N	All reported students have participated in an alternate assessment for multiple years. A change in the type of assessment given to these students would not provide them with an appropriate opportunity to display their acquired skills and ability. Additionally, there was an increased enrollment of students in 2018-2019 who participate in an alternate assessment.
761	Atlanta Public Schools	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	N	N	N	Atlanta Public Schools continues to train teachers that work with students that are in need of alternate curriculum and the process in which a student with severe educational needs would be appropriate for accessing the Georgia Alternate Assessment. At this time all IEP teams have made appropriate decisions for GAA 2.0 in which these students require extensive adaptations to their curricular needs based on their service delivery model and additional services. IEP teams that qualify students for GAA 2.0 go through the eligibility criteria form during each annual review to continue to make data informed decisions.
603	Bacon County	Yes	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.8	N	N	N	The school district follows due process compliance procedures and determines students to be eligible for the GAA based on decisions made by the IEP team through a process of reviewing relevant and appropriate student performance indicators.
604	Baker County	Yes	2.2	1.9	3.0	3.8	N	N	N	Baker County School District exceeded 1% of students enrolled in GAA 2.0 because of lower student enrollment and higher numbers of students with special needs.
605	Baldwin County	Yes	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.0	N	N	N	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	1.6	1.7	2.6	2.3	N	N	N	The IEP teams have met on each of these students and determined the alternative assessment best meets the needs of these students individually.

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607	Barrow County	Yes	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	N	N	N	The Barrow County School System is currently using the new Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) 2.0 eligibility criteria rubric to select the appropriate students to participate in the GAA 2.0. Rather than waiting on the mandate for implementation of the new rubric in the 2019-2020 school year, the Barrow County School System has already begun to examine the new criteria in an effort to meet the 1.0% participation cap requirement. Teachers and Administrators are kept aware of, and receive professional learning on use of the rubric, in addition to on the selection process for students taking the assessment. As was the case with the previous Georgia Alternate Assessment, The Barrow County Schools employs a thorough vetting process for students proposed to be placed on the GAA 2.0. In addition, Barrow County School System uses GoIEP. GoIEP 2.0 was rolled out in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year, and teachers and staff are orienting to the new system. GoIEP 2.0 includes the new eligibility criteria rubric, and teachers and administrators receive professional learning on the selection process as it relates to GoIEP. Our goal is to focus on the individual needs of the students as IEP committees, including more of an emphasis on service delivery models and adaptive skills, and less on individual IQ scores. Part of this focus includes ensuring compliance with all of the eligibility requirements included in the rubric. Given the introduction of a new and different standardized assessment (GAA 2.0), a new eligibility criteria rubric, a new IEP management system (GoIEP 2.0), and the training and communication required as a result of these new initiatives, the Barrow County School System supports the GaDOE's submission of the 1-year, 1.0% cap waiver. We are encouraged by the opportunity to receive support and technical assistance in ensuring the appropriate administration of the GAA 2.0, and would welcome the chance to work collaboratively with the GaDOE in this process.
608	Bartow County	Yes	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	N	N	N	Bartow County Schools was only over the 1% in the Social Studies portion of the GAA. There were about 1000 less testers overall in Social Studies, which made the ratio from the GA Milestones to the GAA over the 1% cap.
609	Ben Hill County	Yes	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	N	N	N	All students who are taking the GAA 2.0 this school year are students who have been found eligible by their IEP teams to qualify for the GAA 2.0. 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	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	N	N	N	This is a small rural community; therefore, a small number of students can affect the percentage more easily than in larger school systems.
611	Bibb County	Yes	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.0	Y	N	N	No additional comments.
612	Bleckley County	Yes	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4	Y	N	N	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	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.6	N	N	N	
763	Bremen City	No								
614	Brooks County	Yes	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	N	N	N	Brooks County Schools implements policies and procedures to ensure students administered the Georgia Alternative Assessment meet all requirements.
615	Bryan County	Yes	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.3	Y	N	N	
764	Buford City	No								

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616	Bulloch County	Yes	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	N	N	N	Students identified to participate in the GAA 2.0 testing meet the eligibility criteria provided by the GADOE. Of the 71 students participating, 37 are in the categories of Moderate/Severe/Profound Intellectual Disabilities and Autism. Students' IEPs document the early ages these students were placed in self-contained programs. Of the remaining 34 students, 25 meet the eligibility criteria for Mild Intellectual Disability classification. It is noted that several of these students scored on the borderline for the Moderate/Severe/Profound Category. IEP committees will continue to monitor student progress and utilize the new GAA 2.0 eligibility criteria and make recommendations as needed.
617	Burke County	Yes	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.5	N	N	N	Our district anticipates exceeding the 1% cap for the following reasons: 1) due to the number of students who reside in this district with the most significant cognitive delays, and 2) due to the number of students with significant cognitive disabilities who have transferred into our school district this year.
618	Butts County	Yes	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	N	N	N	After providing appropriate training and guidance, our staff has carefully considered the needs of each student and determined the GAA to be the most appropriate instrument for measuring academic progress. Furthermore, we ensure that all students are served in their least restrictive environment where they are provided access to the grade level content.
765	Calhoun City	No								
619	Calhoun County	No								
620	Camden County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	Y	N	N	
621	Candler County	Yes	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4	N	N	N	The number of students that met criteria and requirements for GAA slightly exceeded 1% for 2018-2019.
622	Carroll County	Yes	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	Y	N	N	
766	Carrollton City	Yes	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.1	Y	N	N	
767	Cartersville City	No								
623	Catoosa County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	Y	N	N	
624	Charlton County	Yes	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	N	N	N	The Charlton County School System is requesting an exception to the 1% cap on the number of GAA participants for the 2018-2019 school year. Charlton County has 881 students in the tested grades (This is the same total number as last year). Our school system has a small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the 1% cap requirement.
626	Chattahoochee County	Yes	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	N	N	N	Chattahoochee County School District is a small district with an overall enrollment of about 900 students. Due to the small population, our district has exceeded the 1% cap since just a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. In addition, our unique population of military transfer students into our district throughout the year can cause the number of students meeting GAA requirements to fluctuate. The IEP teams at Chattahoochee County are using appropriate procedures to correctly identify students that are eligible for Special Education services.
627	Chattooga County	Yes	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.5	Y	N	N	Chattooga County has a very well implemented special education program in our schools. All the special education teachers are very well trained and stay abreast of all current issues and teaching strategies for our special education population.

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628	Cherokee County	Yes	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.2	N	N	N	<p>The Cherokee County School District provides extensive training to support the identification and instruction of students for whom the GAA 2.0 is appropriate and will continue to do so. IEP teams identify students using the Eligibility Criteria established by the GaDOE based on multiple sources of evidence. Each student's IEP provides a justification for why that student is found eligible for GAA 2.0 participation. Additionally, Cherokee County received several students with disabilities from other states and districts with an IEP that indicated the student would participate in an alternate assessment and also provided the GAA 2.0 to those students as required by the existing IEP. Eligibility criteria for the GAA 2.0 are reviewed annually by IEP teams to ensure that the proper students are being tested with this assessment.</p> <p>As a metro school district, there are a number of colleges and universities in close proximity to our schools. As such, the number of Cherokee County School District students participating in Dual Enrollment programs are increasing and those students are exempting the Georgia Milestone Assessments. Fewer students participating in those assessments means that impact of students participating in the GAA 2.0 is greater for those particular subjects or courses. We anticipate that the trend of students participating in programs that allow exemptions from the Georgia Milestones Assessment will continue meaning that the GAA 2.0 participation rate will be more greatly impacted as fewer and fewer students are tested due to these exemptions.</p>
769	Chickamauga City	Yes	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2	Y	N	N	
773	City Schools of Decatur	No								
629	Clarke County	Yes	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.4	Y	N	N	
630	Clay County	Yes	1.5	1.5	4.7	4.7	N	N	N	Clay County School District students requiring GAA exceeds the 1% cap, because our district has such a very small total population that a few students will have a significant impact on the percentages. Listing any numbers, of students or percentages, will violate FERPA.
631	Clayton County	Yes	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	N	N	N	The GAA enrollment for Clayton County Public Schools will exceed 1.0% due to a continual high transient student population and a high traffic geographic location. Clayton County Public School District continues to experience a moderately 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 continues to increase annually due to higher clinical diagnoses. Autism is now the fourth highest eligibility category of student support in our district accounting for approximately 10% of the students with disabilities in Clayton County Schools.
632	Clinch County	Yes	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	Y	N	N	
633	Cobb County	Yes	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	Y	N	N	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 2018-19 school year. The CCSD continues to experience a growth in students with disabilities (SWD) each year. The data indicate that the district has an increase of 198 SWD between the October 2016 FTE count to the October 2017 FTE for a total of 14,950 SWD in the district. The data also indicate that CCSD has 2,447 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 may continue to slightly exceed the 1% mark for GAA.
634	Coffee County	No								
635	Colquitt County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	Y	N	N	

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636	Columbia County	Yes	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.1	N	N	N	We have a significant number of out-of-state transfers due to the growth of local industry, universities, and Fort Gordon's Cyber Command. Parents of students with significant disabilities elect to live in our county because of our excellent, well-staffed programs.
771	Commerce City	Yes	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.3	N	N	N	The Commerce School District only administers the GAA to students that meet qualifications. Our system has a very small population such that the GAA population of students has a significant impact on the percentages.
637	Cook County	No								
638	Coweta County	Yes	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	N	N	N	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	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.8	N	N	N	These are students who live in our LEA who qualify for GAA.
640	Crisp County	Yes	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.1	N	Y	N	
641	Dade County	Yes	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.1	N	N	N	Our school system is small with a total student population of a little more than 2,000 students. While we do have less than 1% of our total population scheduled to take the GAA, we are slightly above that percentage in those grades which are tested. In the school year 2017-2018, our system had 22 students taking the GAA and that number is down to only 16 for the 2018-2019 assessment. We continue to provide our students with the necessary accommodations for optimal learning experiences and meeting their academic needs. In doing so, we are slightly above the 1% participation rate.
772	Dalton Public Schools	No								
642	Dawson County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	Y	N	N	
643	Decatur County	Yes	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	N	N	N	All students participating in the Georgia Alternative Assessment program meet 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. IEP teams look to see if the student can functionally and fairly be administered the Georgia Milestones, by using the criteria set forth by the GADOE in the flow chart and checklist. All special education teachers are thoroughly trained on how to read the flow chart/checklist and use both the special education director and the assessment director as resources.
644	DeKalb County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	Y	N	Y	
891	Department of Juvenile Justice	No								
645	Dodge County	Yes	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.7	N	N	N	All students assessed on the GAA 2.0 meet the stated criteria and have significant impairments in the areas of intellect, academic or adaptive skills. All students identified to test on the GAA 2.0 have a significant cognitive impairment that impacts classroom performance in the general education setting and the ability to take the traditional assessments. They require modified alternate assessments in order to be successful.
646	Dooly County	Yes	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.9	N	N	N	Enrollment in grade levels is less than 100 in almost all grades so 1 GAA student in a grade level creates a percentage greater than 1.0%. Two students in a grade level creates a percentage over 2%.

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647	Dougherty County	Yes	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	N	N	N	After a review of student records, this percentage is due to the increased number of students with Disabilities transferring into the district with GAA 2.0 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 require GAA 2.0 as their method of Assessment.
648	Douglas County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	Y	N	N	District enrollment for students who meet the criteria for the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 has increased since last school year and is continuing to increase for the 2018-2019 school year. At this time, we are estimating our percentage of students at 1.44% based on our October FTE count, but have received 28 new students in Douglas County that meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the GAA 2.0 this school year.
774	Dublin City	Yes	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	N	N	N	Our system has a very small population such that the GAA population has a significant impact on the overall percentages.
649	Early County	No								
650	Echols County	No								
651	Effingham County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	N	N	N	Effingham County Schools has established compliant processes and procedures for placement of students in GAA. We follow the guidelines established by the Georgia Department of Education and require extensive data to support placement of students. Our school system employs a Special Education Program Manager who provides training and guidance to school psychologists and IEP teams to ensure appropriate placement.
652	Elbert County	Yes	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.7	N	N	N	Elbert County students participating in GAA are identified by Individual Education Plan committees based on student performance and ability data.
653	Emanuel County	Yes	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	N	N	N	Emanuel County School District only administers the GAA to students who meet qualifications based on the GAA Eligibility requirements.
654	Evans County	Yes	1.5	1.4	1.8	2.0	Y	N	N	
655	Fannin County	Yes	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.5	N	N	N	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 2.0. 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	Yes	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	Y	N	N	During the 2019-2020 school year, all students who participated in the GAA 2.0 were appropriately placed into an Adapted Curriculum Program. Our staff undergoes training each year on the proper identification of GAA students. In the areas of ELA, Math, and Science we tested at or below 1% of our students. In the area of social studies, we tested 1.06 percent of our students. We have a fewer number of students taking the EOC in social studies as a result of a large percentage of our students enrolling on Dual Enrollment Courses.
657	Floyd County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.7	Y	N	N	Floyd County Schools has a very successful and strong Autism program. Teachers are thoroughly trained with research based strategies. FCS has 23 Autistic students on a GAA this year.
658	Forsyth County	No								
659	Franklin County	Yes	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.5	N	N	N	We have a significant number of low-functioning autistic and cognitively disabled students enrolled in our school district.
660	Fulton County	Yes	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	N	N	N	Fulton County Schools is experiencing a decline in enrollment of tested students (Grades 3-8, 11). As we experience this, the enrollment of GAA 2.0 students is increasing.

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776	Gainesville City	Yes	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	N	N	N	GAA participation procedures are closely monitored and students are placed on GAA based on the DOE GAA participation Guidelines. IEP decisions are also monitored closely and each IEP documents the need for GAA participation.
661	Gilmer County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.9	Y	N	N	
662	Glascocock County	No								
663	Glynn County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	Y	N	N	Glynn County typically matriculates students with their age level peers. Numbers reported represent cohort participation for each grade level.
664	Gordon County	No								
665	Grady County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.7	N	N	N	The GAA assessment is a better assessment tool to assess, monitor and support the needs of this group of students.
666	Greene County	Yes	2.0	1.9	2.7	3.5	N	N	N	Greene County Schools GAA trend data shows our enrollment numbers as being consistent, ranging from 21-26 for the FY17-FY19, with an enrollment of 26 in FY19. However, in a small rural school district with only 1304 students enrolled in the GAA counted grades, 26 GAA students causes us to exceed the state 1% cap by 0.99%. Our overall enrollment data for the past three years reveals a decline, while our GAA enrollment has increased slightly. It is for these reasons that Greene County Schools will exceed the 1% GAA participation cap for FY19.
726	Griffin-Spalding County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	N	N	N	The GAA percentage in ELA, Math, and Social Studies is 1.0% or less. The GAA percentage in Science remained the same however, the number of students assessed on the EOC dropped by more than 600 students which substantially affected the GAA participation.
667	Gwinnett County	No								
668	Habersham County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	N	N	N	GAA enrollment has exceeded 1.0% slightly as students with significant cognitive needs have transferred into the school district.
669	Hall County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	N	N	N	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	4.2	4.1	3.1	3.3	N	N	N	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.
671	Haralson County	Yes	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.9	N	N	N	The Haralson County School District has reviewed its policies, practices, and procedures for placing students with intellectual disabilities in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA). The District 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.
672	Harris County	No								
673	Hart County	Yes	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.4	N	N	N	The school system has specific procedures in place for identifying students who would require an alternate assessment due to a documented disability. These procedures follow the state guidelines and our teachers are trained thoroughly in the identification process.
674	Heard County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.1	N	N	Y	
675	Henry County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	Y	N	N	Henry County Schools is a district with exceptional services for students with disabilities. As a result, the district experiences a high rate of transfer students eligible for special education services, including students with significant cognitive disabilities and those requiring alternate curriculum and assessment. Ten percent of the total population of students with disabilities in the district are identified as having significant cognitive disabilities, with the majority of those students receiving services through an alternate curriculum program, thereby making an alternate assessment most appropriate for this population.

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676	Houston County	Yes	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.2	Y	N	Y	Based on the determination of the IEP team, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 following the participation guidelines set forth by the Georgia Department of Education. The Houston County School System ensures administrators and teachers receive ongoing professional learning and support on the criteria for participation for the GAA 2.0 through direct training and general supervision. In addition, the district's IEP process requires the IEP committee follow the state eligibility criteria process for participation in the GAA 2.0.
677	Inwin County	Yes	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.1	N	N	N	All students are reviewed and placed in the most appropriate educational setting.
678	Jackson County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.6	Y	N	N	Jackson 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 GaDOE. Jackson County has implemented a new program that targets students with cognitive disabilities in order to provide them educational supports so they can participate in general education assessments. We anticipate that this practice will bring our system closer to the 1% target required for participation in the GAA.
679	Jasper County	Yes	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.9	Y	N	N	The Jasper County Charter System students assessed using the GAA have documented eligibility reports and present levels of performance that clearly reflect significant cognitive delays and/or severe autism. These delays require adjusted learning expectations which can only be assessed using the GAA.
680	Jeff Davis County	No								
779	Jefferson City	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.2	Y	N	N	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	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.0	N	N	N	The students who are eligible and participate in this alternative assessment have been tested, interviewed, and observed and then follow-up meetings with their said teachers, principals, school's psychometrist, parents of the identified children and SPED director combined with the results/notes from observations, and prior and current test results show that these students are performing significantly and/or severely cognitively and/or socially/adaptively below the average or norm intelligence and, therefore, placement in this alternative assessment program would be beneficial for them.
682	Jenkins County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.7	N	N	N	Jenkins County is a small system and the GAA 1.0% participation rate may be easily exceeded depending upon student grade placement in tested grades.
683	Johnson County	Yes	1.6	1.6	2.5	2.0	N	N	N	Small number of enrollment in school system

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
684	Jones County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	N	N	N	As part of our yearly oversight and management of the Georgia Alternate Assessment, the Jones County School District employs a thorough vetting process for students proposed to be assessed by the Georgia Alternate Assessment. Through Professional learning, administrators and teachers are provided support in the following areas: State Criteria for eligibility, Eligibility Process for identification. To support the compliance with the state and local rules, the system utilizes GOIEP, a computer program created and managed by the Georgia Department of Education. The program has integrated compliance tools that ensure IEP committees complete the state designed flow chart to ensure that students meet the qualifications before being placed on the assessment. During the 2018-2019 school year, 1.5% of Jones County students participated in the Georgia Alternate Assessment in the content areas of English Language Arts and Math, 1.4% of students participated in the content area of Science, and 1.5% of students participated in the content area of Social Studies. System participation in each of the content areas exceeded the statewide cap of 1%. The system had 43 students participate in the assessment, and all students were considered eligible based on noted data that is characteristic of significant cognitive deficits per review of their Individualized Education Plan. The 43 students who participated in the assessment had a primary eligibility category in one of the following categories: Mod, Sev, Prof, OHI, Mild, SLD, Autism, Significant Dev Delay. Eligibility for participation in the assessment was not simply based on primary area of eligibility. To determine eligibility, IEP teams followed a formal process review of student's educational data and needs along with state criteria. The IEP committees for the 43 students who participated in the GA Alternate Assessment require instruction based on a modified curriculum generated from the GSE to access the general education curriculum.
685	Lamar County	Yes	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	N	N	N	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 students 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	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.5	N	N	N	All students participating in the Georgia Alternative Assessment 2.0 meet the enrollment criteria. The Lanier County Schools population is small and a few students can change the percentages significantly.
687	Laurens County	Yes	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	Y	N	N	
688	Lee County	Yes	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	Y	N	N	The Lee County School System saw an increase in enrollment for the 2018-19 school year. Total school enrollment (based on October 2018 FTE Reporting) was 6,235. Total enrollment increased by 1.10% when compared to the October 2017 FTE Reporting data. Total enrollment for Students with Disabilities (SWD), however, saw a much larger increase in enrollment. SWD enrollment increased from 554 students in October 2017 to 588 in October 2018. Enrollment for Students with Disabilities increased by 6.14% from October 2017 to October 2018. During March 2019, total school enrollment was reported to have only increased by 2 students from October, but SWD enrollment increased by 15 students.
689	Liberty County	Yes	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.0	Y	N	N	
690	Lincoln County	Yes	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.4	Y	N	N	
691	Long County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	N	N	N	All students reported by Long County Schools as eligible for the GAA 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 1% on GAA participation.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
692	Lowndes County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	Y	N	N	
693	Lumpkin County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	N	N	N	The number of students that met GAA eligibility criteria, via the GAA rubric in GOIEP, resulted in a total that exceeded the 1% participation cap. The district has continued to update their procedure manual and provide technical assistance, in order to ensure IEP committees fully understand the GAA rubric and who is appropriate for participation in GAA 2.0.
694	Macon County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	N	N	N	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.
695	Madison County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	N	N	N	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 the 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	Yes	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1	N	N	N	Marietta City Schools is a small district and has had some fluctuation in its enrollment. Marietta's GAA participation rate historically has hovered at or just below 1%; therefore, a recent small change in enrollment has put Marietta City Schools above the 1% mark.
696	Marion County	Yes	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.6	N	N	N	The total percentage for GAA 2.0 was 1.1%. Our total enrollment has decreased and is 720. We have exceeded the 1% because we have a small student enrollment which causes our percentages to seem greater.
697	McDuffie County	Yes	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.8	N	N	N	McDuffie 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 Georgia Department of Education. The individual student IEPs document the need for GAA participation.
698	McIntosh County	Yes	1.6	1.5	2.1	2.4	N	N	N	The total percentage of students participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment exceeds the 1% administration because our system has a very small total population, where one student can significantly affect the total percentage. Each of these students also has multiple eligibility issues which impact the individual's ability to take the Georgia Milestone Tests.
699	Meriwether County	Yes	2.7	2.9	1.9	1.9	N	N	Y	
700	Miller County	Yes	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.5	N	N	N	The total enrollment of the Miller County school district is less than 1000 students. It takes a very small number of our student population to place our district above 1%. We are currently at 1.3% GAA participation rate. The total number of our students participating in GAA is 6. All of these students meet the requirements for GAA participation. This decision was made by an IEP team that looked at current data, psychological reports, eligibility information, and GAA participation guidelines prior to making the decision.
701	Mitchell County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	N	N	N	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 (2.08%) exceeds the 1% cap because our system has a very small population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages.
702	Monroe County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.6	Y	N	N	
703	Montgomery County	Yes	1.1	1.1	2.1	2.1	N	N	N	Based on the determinations of the Special Education IEP Teams, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities participated in the GAA.
704	Morgan County	No								

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
705	Murray County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	N	N	N	The anticipated GAA enrollment exceeds the 1% cap because we have had an increase in students with significant cognitive disabilities and multiple disabilities.
706	Muscogee County	Yes	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	Y	N	N	
707	Newton County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	N	N	N	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	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.3	Y	N	N	
709	Oglethorpe County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.8	N	N	N	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 in Go-IEP to ensure that the student meets the criteria for participation in the Georgia Alternative Assessment 2.0.
710	Paulding County	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	N	N	N	For the 2018-2019 school year, Paulding County School District's Assessment Department worked collaboratively with its Special Education Department to ensure that all students to be assessed with the GAA 2.0 strictly meet the guidelines outlined for GAA participation. The number of students to be assessed using the GAA currently exceeds the 1% participation cap; however, the district can assure that all students participating in the GAA qualify based upon adherence to those guidelines. To reduce the number of students being assessed by the GAA would require the district to assess some of these qualifying students with the Georgia Milestones. To provide the most meaningful assessment that best serves their needs, all qualifying students will be administered the GAA during the 2018-2019 school year.
711	Peach County	Yes	2.3	2.2	2.8	2.8	N	N	N	Peach County School System utilizes an extensive vetting process, including use of the GAA flow chart, before the students are placed on GAA. In addition, our IEP team consistently receives training updates on the regulations and processes to ensure they understand and employ GAA practices. The students selected to participate in the GAA are students that demonstrate a significant cognitive disability as determined by an IEP team.
784	Pelham City	Yes	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.8	Y	N	N	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	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.7	N	N	N	The IEP teams collaborated and reviewed the history and needs of each student, identifying over 1% as in need of the GAA due to significant cognitive disabilities.
713	Pierce County	Yes	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.9	N	N	N	Pierce 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 participation in the GAA. Our enrollment of Students with Disabilities increased for the 2018-2019 school year and the Pierce County School District continues to receive students with significant intellectual disabilities from other counties which has increased the number of students assessed on the GAA. Ultimately, the decision to administer GAA is made by the IEP team, based on a comprehensive review of the student's specific educational needs.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
714	Pike County	Yes	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5	Y	N	N	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	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	N	N	N	PSD utilizes the GAA eligibility criteria on an individual basis and have determined that all students currently scheduled to participate in GAA 2.0 meet eligibility criteria.
716	Pulaski County	Yes	3.4	3.4	4.2	3.6	N	N	N	Due to the small total enrollment, even small numbers of GAA students can have a significant impact.
717	Putnam County	Yes	4.2	4.1	4.6	5.1	N	N	N	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.
718	Quitman County	Yes	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.4	Y	N	N	
719	Rabun County	Yes	1.6	1.5	2.3	2.6	Y	N	N	18% of our GAA students moved to Rabun County from other districts outside of Rabun County already identified as students who would be participating in the GAA.
720	Randolph County	Yes	1.8	1.8	3.3	3.2	N	N	N	In the last two years, our district has seen a drastic decrease in overall enrollment specifically in tested grade levels 3rd and 5th. The students identified for GAA 2.0 have had a normal matriculation to tested grade levels, and the eligibility criteria was used and the decision to utilize GAA was warranted by the IEP committee.
721	Richmond County	Yes	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.9	N	N	N	We simply have a high number of SID/PID and MoID students in our district.
722	Rockdale County	Yes	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	N	N	N	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. This decision is NOT based solely on: •Previous performance on statewide assessment. •Disability category •Racial or economic background •Excessive or extended absences •Amount of time or location of service delivery •Administratively based federal accountability requirements  Ultimately, the decision to administer GAA is made by the IEP team, based on a comprehensive review of the student's educational needs.
785	Rome City	Yes	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.1	Y	Y	N	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.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
625	Savannah-Chatham County	Yes	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	Y	N	N	The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System will exceed 1% anticipated GAA participation due to an increase in both enrollments of students with significant cognitive disabilities and students with autism, coupled with significant cognitive disabilities. Additionally, students continue to enroll from out-of-district with alternate assessment designations in their IEPs.
723	Schley County	Yes	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.4	N	N	Y	
724	Screven County	Yes	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.4	N	N	N	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	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	N	N	Y	
786	Social Circle City	Yes	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.6	Y	N	N	
7820212	State Charter Schools- Cherokee Charter Academy	Yes	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.4	N	N	N	Cherokee Charter Academy has a lower student enrollment than many other LEAs in the state. As such, our small number of students taking the Georgia Alternative Assessment easily put us over the recommended 1% limit. For each student who was assessed via GAA, the IEP team reviewed the student's cognitive abilities and determined that even with the maximum accommodations allowed, the students would be unable to demonstrate performance of the Georgia Standards of Excellence through participation in the regular Milestones assessments.
7820618	State Charter Schools- Coastal Plains Charter High School - Candler Campus	No								
7820617	State Charter Schools- Dubois Integrity Academy	Yes	2.8	2.8	3.8	3.8	N	N	N	Du Bois Integrity Academy accepts students through a lottery that is open to all Clayton County residents. We do not do testing requirements for students to enroll.
7820613	State Charter Schools- Foothills Charter High School (Central Office - Madison)	No								
7820412	State Charter Schools- Georgia Connections Academy	Yes	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.2	N	N	N	Georgia Connections Academy is a virtual, charter, public school with an open enrollment policy in which anyone can choose to enroll during the enrollment period. Georgia Connections Academy does not discriminate during enrollment, all students can enroll regardless of severity of their disabilities. Students enrolling as alternatively assessed are provided comparable services.
7820120	State Charter Schools- Georgia Cyber Academy	Yes	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	Y	N	Y	Georgia Cyber Academy supports multiple counties across the state of Georgia and therefore, have a high number of students enrolled with significant cognitive disabilities who require and receive specialized services. The total exceeds the 1% cap because a special program exists in our system that has drawn large numbers of students with the most significant disabilities. Although our system exceeds 1%, participation in the GAA, our overall percentage of students with disabilities participating in the GAA has decreased over time.
7820616	State Charter Schools- Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics	Yes	0.9	0.9	1.6	2.1	N	N	Y	
7830410	State Charter Schools II- Atlanta Heights Charter School	No								
7830613	State Charter Schools II- Brookhaven Innovation Academy	No								
7830611	State Charter Schools II- Cirrus Charter Academy	No								

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

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			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
7830610	State Charter Schools II- Coweta Charter Academy	Yes	0.8	0.9	2.0	2.0	N	N	N	Serving all students, and as our own LEA, Coweta Charter Academy is impacted by the 1.0% cap. With a small total student enrollment, less than 800 students, even a small number of qualified students can have a significant impact. All student's participating in the GAA 2.0, have been found eligible based on IEP Committee determination and decision criteria.
7830310	State Charter Schools II- Fulton Leadership Academy	No								
7830615	State Charter Schools II- Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys	No								
7830616	State Charter Schools II- Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls	No								
7830619	State Charter Schools II- International Academy of Smyrna	No								
7830620	State Charter Schools II- International Charter Academy of Georgia	No								
7830614	State Charter Schools II- Liberty Tech Charter Academy	Yes	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	N	N	Y	Liberty Tech is a one school district that allows any student who resides in the state of Georgia to enroll. The GAA 2.0 enrollment exceeded 1% due to students whose cognitive abilities met the state criteria for GAA participation.
7830210	State Charter Schools II- Pataula Charter Academy	Yes	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.6	Y	N	Y	
7830617	State Charter Schools II- Resurgence Hall Charter School	No								
7830618	State Charter Schools II- SAIL Charter Academy - School for Arts-Infused Learning	Yes	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	N	N	N	SAIL is a small Charter School. Our few students who are on GAA place us over the 1%.
7830621	State Charter Schools II- SLAM Academy of Atlanta	No								
7830612	State Charter Schools II- Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter Academy	No								
7830103	State Charter Schools II- Statesboro STEAM Academy	Yes	0.9	0.9	2.0	1.9	N	N	N	Statesboro STEAM Academy follows identification guidelines set forth by the GADOE.
7820614	State Charter Schools- International Charter School of Atlanta	No								
7820612	State Charter Schools- Ivy Preparatory Academy, Inc	No								
7820108	State Charter Schools- Mountain Education Charter High School	No								
7820110	State Charter Schools- Odyssey Charter School	No								
7820615	State Charter Schools- Scintilla Charter Academy	Yes	1.3	1.3	2.7	2.7	N	N	N	Scintilla Charter Academy is requesting an exception to the 1% cap on the number of GAA participants for the 2019-2020 school year. SCA scholars have approximately 300 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.
7820121	State Charter Schools- Utopian Academy for the Arts Charter School	No								
7991893	State Schools	Yes	13.4	11.3	11.8	11.4	N	N	Y	
7991894	State Schools	Yes	45.6	45.6	60.0	45.5	N	N	Y	
7991895	State Schools	Yes	20.0	20.5	TFS	TFS	Y	N	Y	
727	Stephens County	Yes	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	N	N	N	Students with significant cognitive disabilities make up 17.9% of the total SWD population.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
728	Stewart County	Yes	2.8	2.9	5.1	4.8	N	N	N	Stewart County School System exceeds the 1.0% of students enrolled on the GAA 2.0. A review of GAA 2.0 participation has occurred and has resulted in professional learning to address how to appropriately identify and address the needs of students with significant cognitive delays. Stewart County has a small total enrollment of 437 with only 239 students in testing grades where one student transferring to the system on an alternate assessment affects the participation percentage significantly.
729	Sumter County	Yes	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	N	N	N	Sumter County Schools exceeds the 1.0% participation because we have a large number of students with cognitive disabilities.
730	Talbot County	Yes	1.7	1.7	2.6	2.7	N	N	N	Talbot has a small district population which affects our data presentation for the 1% Cap. The district has followed all procedures for identifying GAA students and this assessment is the best alternative according to student functionality.
731	Taliaferro County	Yes	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.4	N	N	N	This total exceeds the 1% cap because the LEA has a very small total population such that a few students have a significant impact on the percentages. Taliaferro County School District has a total of 171 students currently enrolled. Only 90 students are enrolled in standardized testing grade levels. Students participating in GAA for the 2018-2019 school year constitute 5.56% of the tested population.
732	Tattnall County	Yes	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	N	N	N	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. In Tattnall County, we strive to make the right and most individualized decisions possible for students.
733	Taylor County	Yes	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.0	Y	N	Y	<p>The enrollment trend of the Taylor County School System has been gradually declining over the last five years. Enrollment figures taken from the Georgia Department of Education's FTE reports are as follows: 2015 -- 1464, 2016 -- 1451, 2017 -- 1462, 2018 -- 1415, 2019 -- 1423, 2020 - 1,404.</p> <p>One segment of the population, however, is trending upward: the special education population. Enrollment in special education over the last five years is as follows: 2015 -- 157, 2016 -- 145, 2017 -- 162, 2018 -- 164, 2019 -- 173, 2020 -- 166</p> <p>A review of the GAA eligible grades for 2020, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 reveals that there are 704 students, based on FTE. Of these 704, 14 are on GAA (1.99%).</p> <p>Considering the decline of the overall student population along with the increase in the special education population, the Taylor County School System requests consideration to raise the 1% cap because our system has a very small population such that the special education population has a significant impact on the allowable percentages. Our small school was able to reduce the overall percentage of the GAA tested population in 2018 from 2.5 to 1.99 in 2020.</p>
734	Telfair County	Yes	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.0	N	N	N	Telfair County School system has reviewed the eligibility and current IEP for all of the students participating in the GAA. Each student has a significant cognitive disability that meets the requirement for participation in the Georgia Alternate Assessment.
735	Terrell County	Yes	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	N	N	N	Anticipated GAA 2.0 enrollment is under 1.0%.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
736	Thomas County	Yes	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	N	N	Y	The Thomas County School District offers many programs for special needs students which are not available in the smaller surrounding school districts. Close proximity makes it possible for families to commute, allowing their students to enroll in our district. Many physicians refer the parents of special needs students to Thomas County's Hand-in-Hand Primary School because it offers a 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, 20.4% 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	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	N	N	N	Every GAA student has been through the prescribed RTI and Special Education eligibility process. The IEP Teams thoroughly reviewed and considered evaluation data (psychological, academic, adaptive, instructional, etc.) and determined that these students need specialized academic instruction and techniques over a period of time to ensure that he or she can learn, retain information, and transfer skills to other settings. These students have significant cognitive disabilities that affect the student's intellectual functioning and is documented as such in the student's individualized education program (IEP). The students' cognitive disabilities make it difficult for them to access the GSE without extensive instructional support and specialized instruction. These students also need specialized support throughout the day in areas such as expressing his or her needs, getting from place to place, eating lunch, negotiating social situations, and/or taking care of personal needs.
789	Thomasville City	Yes	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	N	N	N	We are a small district and our overall enrollment numbers mean that a few students participating in GAA have a significant impact on the percentages.
737	Tift County	Yes	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	N	N	N	Approximately 77-79 students were administered the US History End-of-Course Assessment during the 2018-2019 Academic Year. The LEA made the decision to shift the US History course to the 11th-grade cohort to align with the American Literature course offering. For this reason, a difference of 544 students were not administered US History which resulted in fewer students tested in this content area of Social Studies.  Many students also elect to take US History and/or Economics via Dual Enrollment at one of our Post-secondary institutions which impacted this number.
738	Toombs County	Yes	1.8	1.7	2.3	2.1	Y	N	N	
739	Towns County	Yes	1.4	1.4	2.7	2.9	N	N	N	The overall student enrollment in testing grades is small resulting in the number of GAA 2.0 participants having a greater impact on the GAA 2.0 participation percentage.
740	Treutlen County	No								
791	Trion City	No								

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
741	Troup County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	N	N	N	Currently we have 85 students identified with an intellectual disability which is 7% of our total SWD count. We have also increased the identification of students with significant health concerns that impact this number as well. Due to the increased enrollment of SWD's this has increased those students who will be assessed using the GAA. Every IEP Team utilizes 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 five is 1.34 % of the total population that will be assessed through GMAS for the 2018-19 school year.
742	Turner County	Yes	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.7	N	N	N	Policies, practices, and procedures have been reviewed along with all GAA participants. All requirements have been met according to the participants LRE, their eligibility, and the GAA required rubric.
743	Twiggs County	Yes	2.4	2.5	3.5	2.8	N	N	N	The overall GAA percentage for the 2017-2018 school year was 2.98%. The anticipated GAA percentage for the 2018-2019 school year is 2.29%. 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	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.6	N	N	N	Valdosta City Schools (VCS) is requesting an exception for the GAA 1% participation cap. Our total GAA participation exceeds the 1% cap, however all students being assessed with GAA 2.0 have been appropriately identified through their IEP placement teams.
793	Vidalia City	Yes	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	N	N	N	Increase in the population of students with low incidence disabilities.
746	Walker County	Yes	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	N	N	N	Walker County currently has a total of 72 students in grades where GAA is used as the assessment. This is approximately 1.6% of our total student population. Of the total numbers of students to be assessed on GAA in the coming year, 32% are eligible in the category of Mild Intellectually Disabled, 29% are eligible in the category of Autism, 33% 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. There is an anticipated decrease of 0.12% in GAA participation this school year.
747	Walton County	Yes	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	N	N	N	All the students from Walton County that participate in the GAA for 2018-2019 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, 36 of the 92 GAA students in Walton County have a primary disability other than intellectual disability but function in the intellectually disabled range.
748	Ware County	Yes	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.6	Y	N	N	
749	Warren County	Yes	1.2	1.2	2.4	2.5	N	N	N	The IEP team reviewed the criteria areas and evaluated students to determine eligibility for special education services and several new students were found eligible to participate in the GAA 2.0.

Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Participation Justification

System ID	System Name	District GAA Participation Exceeded 1%	GAA Participation Rates by Subject Area				Justifications for why GAA participation exceeded 1% of all tested students			
			ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	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
750	Washington County	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.8	N	N	N	The number of students participating in the Georgia Alternate Assessment for the 2018-2019 school year in Washington County is above 1%. Twenty-five 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	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	Y	N	N	
752	Webster County	Yes	2.6	2.7	1.4	1.4	N	N	N	Due to their documented disabilities, assessing these students using the Georgia Alternate Assessment provides a more accurate reflection of our students performance in relation to state standards.
753	Wheeler County	No								
754	White County	Yes	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	N	N	N	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 than 1% of total enrollment which has steadily declined since last year and our GAA population participation remains consistent.
755	Whitfield County	Yes	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	N	N	N	Whitfield County Schools has a high number of students who meet the eligibility criteria for the GAA 2.0 assessment.
756	Wilcox County	Yes	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	N	N	N	We are a small, rural school system that averages around 90-100 students per grade level. This small enrollment limits us to approximately one GAA student per tested grade level. After reviewing the guidance for GAA 2.0 and re-evaluating all of our students that test GAA, we exceed the allowed 1% due to our small enrollment.
757	Wilkes County	Yes	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	N	N	N	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	No								
759	Worth County	Yes	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	N	N	N	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 students' demonstrated cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior across all settings that is significantly below age expectations, even with program modifications, adaptations, and accommodations.