



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Directors, State Operated Programs
EC Coordinators, Charter Schools

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director *SHT*
Exceptional Children Division

DATE: June 10, 2019

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 1.0 PERCENT WAIVER

In collaboration with the Exceptional Children Division (ECD), the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Accountability Services submitted a waiver to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA). The request outlined NCDPI's plan to address the State exceeding the 1.0 percent cap on students with significant cognitive disabilities who are administered the alternate assessment aligned with the alternate achievement standards (AA-AAAS).

Attached you will find the response from the USDOE. While approved for this year, the clear message of this letter is to inform North Carolina that progress must be made in terms of assessing only the 1.0 percent of students participating on the AA-AAAS. The expectation of the requested extension allows NCDPI to improve the State's plan on reducing the percentage of students taking the AA-AAAS in the coming year.

For LEAs that exceed the 1.0 percent cap, additional monitoring, support, and technical assistance will be provided by the NCDPI to ensure that all students are appropriately educated and assessed. Providing decision-making teams with targeted support will enable the NCDPI to have a better understanding of gaps in information-sharing that exist within the state and inform plans to address the over-scheduleing the alternate assessment strategically.

Thank you for your support as we continue to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Questions or comments regarding the memo should be directed to:

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SHT/DM/MM

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