

School District of Pittsville



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Special Education and Pupil Services Monthly School Board Report

Matthew Sherwood
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
March 14, 2022

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the number of students who may take the alternate assessment is limited to no more than 1.0 percent of the total number of all students in the state who are assessed in a given subject (i.e., reading/language arts, mathematics, and science). This 1.0 percent threshold is at the state level.

Only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in the alternate assessment (DLM), and no student should take the alternate assessment unless they are also participating in the alternate academic achievement standards (Wisconsin Essential Elements), 34 CFR 200.6(a)(2)(ii)(B). In Wisconsin, a student with the most significant cognitive disability is defined as:

- typically characterized as functioning at least two and a half to three standard deviations below the mean in both adaptive behavior and cognitive functioning; **and**
- performs substantially below grade-level expectations on the academic content standards for the grade in which they are enrolled, even with the use of adaptations and accommodations; **and**
- a student who requires extensive, direct individualized instruction and substantial support to achieve measurable gains, across all content areas and settings.

We exceeded the 1.0 percent participation threshold in one or more given subjects on the DLM, for the 2020-21 academic year. We submitted a justification for why the rate was exceeded in that subject area as well as information on how professional development will be provided to IEP members on the definition of most significant cognitive disability and how alternate assessment participation is determined.