

Exceeding 1% Cap on Participation in State Alternate Assessment Intermediate School District (ISD) Summary Justification Form FY 2023-2024

ISD Name: Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District

All intermediate school districts must complete this summary form regarding the percentage of students assessed using Michigan’s alternate assessment (MI-Access). This includes justification forms from member districts/public school academies (PSA) that assessed more than 1% of students in the spring of 2023 using MI-Access.

Data

Below are the 1% Participation Rates for Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District:

Content Area	Total Tested	Alternate Tested	Spring 2023 Participation Rate
English Language Arts	3171	32	1
Mathematics	3177	32	1
Science	1373	15	1.1
Social Studies	1368	8	0.6

Data	Total
Number of member districts/PSAs including the ISD	5
Number of member districts/PSAs including the ISD (only if the ISD runs internal programs) that assessed more than 1% of all students tested in the spring of 2023 using MI-Access (in grades 3-8 and 11)	1

Technical Assistance and Professional Development

Tier I: In the winter of 2023, MDE provided feedback to each ISD, providing recommendations regarding technical assistance or professional development for their constituent districts. ISDs responded to this feedback in a variety of ways and carried out support to districts as appropriate. In the first table below, outline the general technical assistance or professional development provided to **all** districts regarding state assessment decisions or better targeting instruction. Specific or targeted technical assistance provided to a small groups of districts to address specific concerns should not be listed here, but rather in the next section (Tier II/III).

Date Occurred or Planned	Summary of Technical Assistance and/or Professional Development
10/16/2023	<p>During a recent Cass County Special Education Administrator meeting we shared participation data and current MDE guidance. Out local districts continue a steady decline to current data showing about .96% overall.</p> <p>For about five or more years, our district administrators have taken the lead role in reducing numbers in their districts. Our local data shows we are nearing a plateau.</p>

Tier II/III: MDE’s response to ISDs in 2023 (based on 2022 data) provided specific recommendations for each LEA, based on their participation rate or other information provided on Justification Forms. Please outline targeted assistance provided (or planned) to member districts following MDE’s recommendation. Please include assistance provided that may have exceeded MDE recommendations.

Member District	Date Occurred or Planned	Summary of Technical Assistance and/or Professional Development
Edwardsburg Public Schools	01/15/2024	Review MDE guidance with individual case managers.

What resources or support does the ISD need from MDE to continue to provide targeted assistance or professional development to member districts on the topic of alternate assessment participation?

Continued communication with MDE & MDE OSE on efforts to reduce alternate assessments.

Assurances

Please provide the following assurances.

The ISD has provided or will provide targeted assistance to member districts/PSAs that have been flagged for disproportionality for participation in the alternate assessment as outlined on the previous page.

Yes No

Targeted assistance and professional development include an emphasis on member districts/PSAs using the State assessment selection guidance documents and online trainings.

Yes No

Assessment selection is an IEP Team decision and will not be overridden by administrative or procedural decisions.

Yes No

Member District Exceeding 1% Cap Justification Form FY 2023-2024

Member District: Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) places a 1% cap on alternate assessment (MI-Access) participation at the state level. Member districts that contribute to the state exceeding its participation cap must submit information to the Intermediate School District (ISD) justifying the need to exceed the 1% threshold. In addition, ISDs that run programs (functioning as a member district) must complete the form as a member district.

Each ISD collects information from member districts to submit to the state.

Data

Below are the 1% Participation Rates for Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District:

Content Area	Total Tested	Alternate Tested	Spring 2023 Participation Rate
English Language Arts	41	25	61
Mathematics	41	25	61
Science	18	13	72.2
Social Studies	11	6	54.5

By checking this box, the user acknowledges the data in the above table can be verified against the district level data provided in the ISD level report.

Contributing Factors

Did the district test fewer than 500 students total using statewide assessments?

Yes No

Did the district operate a center-based program or regional collaborative for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (serving students from in and outside of the district within a region or ISD)?

Yes No

Utilizing the Alternate Assessment data (page 1), complete the following table.

Assessment Data Table	Number
Total number of students taking spring summative assessments in grade 3-8 and 11 only (M-STEP + PSAT Grade 8 + SAT + MI-Access).	41
Total Number of students tested with MI-Access in grades 3-8 and 11.	25
Students from outside the district placed in district's regional center-based program by IEP team (do not include students who are residents of the district or who have enrolled through school of choice processes).	0
Adjusted Total	41
Adjusted Participation Number	25
Adjusted Rate	61%

Please describe other justification:

Our internal math puts Cass County at a .96% overall. For several years we have been working toward lowering the use of alt assessment, we continue to lower percentage. A review of our data shows that we will likely be at a .9%-1.1% overall for the future. As our county is small and a few students can make a substantial difference to the use of alt assessment

2024 Projected Participation Rate

Projected Participation Rate 2023	Number
District's Projected Participation Rate for 2023 (per the response on the 2022 alternate assessment projected participation form)	62.5%%

Using students' IEP information, Michigan School Data System (MSDS), and other current data, complete the following table to calculate the 2024 projected participation rate.

Projected Participation Rate 2024	Number
Total number of students enrolled in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 with or without an IEP	47
Total number of students whose IEPs designate MI-Access for state summative assessments in any content area	33
Projected Participation Rate for 2024	70.2%

Local Plan

Member districts are expected to provide professional development and technical assistance to staff to ensure high expectations are being held for all students, including students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This includes reviewing local data, IEPs, student outcomes, and ISD feedback as part of that process.

Did the district provide professional development to new and existing staff regarding the definition of "Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities"?

Yes No

Did the district use a formal process to review and record decisions made by IEP Teams regarding assessment selection?

Yes No

Did the district use outcomes data (current and past results from MI-Access, district level data, progress monitoring data, and other formative classroom data) for the purposes of targeting instruction for students who took and are designated to take MI-Access?

Yes No

Did the district receive feedback on the participation rate for students taking MI-Access with recommended action from the ISD as a result of the submitted justification forms last year (this may have come later in the spring)?

Yes No

Please outline the professional development and technical assistance provided to staff regarding targeting student instruction and assessment selection decisions in the table below. This should include activity from January 1, 2023 to current day, as well as any planned or scheduled activity that is yet to be carried out for this school year.

Audience	Topics and Method of Training	Date	Planned/Completed
Local district directors and program supervisors	Sharing data, comparing data, discussion on MDE guidance related to alternate assessment.	10/16/2023	Completed

Resources and Technical Assistance

Does the member district require additional resources and technical assistance from the ISD or MDE to ensure students are being assessed using the most appropriate state summative assessment tool based on the state guidelines?

Yes No

Assurances

Please provide the following assurances.

The member district IEP Team members follow the state guidelines for participation in the alternate assessment.

Yes No

The member district allows IEP Team members to decide which students take an alternate assessment.

Yes No

The member district addresses any issues of disproportionality in statewide assessment.

Yes No