

Public Comment	Proposed Response	ALSDE Response to the Public Comment
<p><b>Comment #1</b>  [Redact School District] would like to submit a comment for 1% waiver consideration. We have had an increase in the number of students with significant disabilities transferring into our system- either already diagnosed or through school referral process. This has impacted our 1% overage. In 2021-2022, we only had 6 students on the ALT. In 2022-2023, we moved up to 9, and last year 14 students. Of those 14, 6 were transfer students. I just thought this might be something to consider.  Thanks,</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment concerning the increase of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in your district. Each district over the 1.0 percent cap was required to complete the <i>2024-2025 One Percent District Justification Form</i>, allowing the district to provide information and unique circumstances contributing to the overage. This information should have been submitted by either the Building Test Coordinator or Special Education Coordinator for your district. The information provided as part of the <i>One Percent District Justification</i> is used to determine on a case-by-case basis if the overage is justified.</p>	<p>The item raised in the public comment is already being addressed through the <i>One Percent District Justification Form</i>.</p>
<p><b>Comment #2</b>  Components 4b and 5 need to be revised to include ALSDE personnel reviewing and completing information necessary regarding the 1%. With regard to the nature of the aforementioned , directors of special education do not have the time to combat all that is already requested of them, and testing coordinators do not have the knowledge. The ALSDE's Department of Special Education Services has personnel with both the time and wherewithal to complete such, and such could be accomplished by assigning teams to each regional support person so that they could first compile and then send to LEAs for review. Currently, this process works in reverse, and the ALSDE has little involvement in an instance for which we all know we LEAs are abysmally overburdened. Adding checks to SES would allow an additional compliance monitoring factor and give LEAs a semblance of the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment regarding Components 4b and 5 of the 1.0 Percent Waiver. These components are mandated by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) per the letter received by all states on October 3, 2024. The USDOE has outlined a set of components required by states to request a waiver for the 2024-2025 school year that are essential for compliance. Component 4b mandates that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) require local education agencies (LEAs) to address any disproportionality in the percentage of students in any student group taking the alternate assessment. Component 5 mandates that the ALSDE require LEAs to submit information to the state justifying the need to exceed the 1.0 percent cap. The ALSDE does not have the authority to change the mandates made by the USDOE; however, the waiver does address how the ALSDE</p>	<p>Components 4b and 5 require local education agencies to respond to disproportionality and the need to exceed the 1.0 percent cap. These items require local education agency oversight and involvement to encourage accountability. It puts LEAs in charge of their own development. The ALSDE has its own set of regulations and guidelines to ensure compliance and support for LEAs in addressing these mandates.</p> <p>The ALSDE is committed to working closely with LEAs to address specific needs related to these components and implement effective solutions.</p>

<p>support they need. We need more support from the ALSDE, not less.</p>	<p>supports LEAs in meeting these component requirements.</p> <p>The ALSDE is committed to working closely with LEAs to address specific needs related to these components and implement effective solutions.</p>	
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