



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 6, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Dynamic Learning Maps Participation Criteria for the 2020-21 School Year

This memo includes a summary of the newly developed participation criteria all school districts must utilize when determining whether a student with disabilities should be administered the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment in the 2020-21 school year.

Key Steps/Actions

- Review the DLM's [participation criteria](#).
- All school districts must begin utilizing the new participation criteria for all students who may be eligible to participate in the DLM assessment. The criteria must be completed for each content area in which the student will be assessed.
- The participation criteria form must be completed by the entire IEP team, including parents, and each member of the team must sign to indicate agreement or disagreement with the determination. If this form is included in the IEP, signatures on the IEP suffice.
- A district-level administrator must review and sign the participation criteria.
- The participation criteria form must be maintained in the student record as part of the current IEP and shall be made available for review during any test security visits by NJDOE staff.

Background

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires all students participate in statewide assessment. The regulations allow the use of an alternate assessment, based on alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. In New Jersey, this alternate assessment is the DLM.

A June 2019 letter from the U.S. Department of Education placed conditions on the Title 1 grant because more than 1 percent of the total number of students assessed statewide were administered the DLM. As a result, New Jersey was directed to develop an action plan to address the DLM participation rate. One component of the action plan is the revision of the participation criteria for the DLM.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the DLM participation criteria, please contact Kim Murray at Kimberly.murray@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group