



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 9, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Principals, DLM District and School Test/Assessment Coordinators, Data Managers, Technology Representatives and Staff Involved with Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

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Division of Academics and Performance

Dynamic Learning Maps: Special Instructionally Embedded Fall 2020 Assessment Window

As a result of the disruption to education in the spring of 2020 and to help educators identify and target students' specific needs, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) are offering the use of DLM's instructionally embedded (IE) assessments in the fall of 2020 for students with significant intellectual disabilities. These IE assessments may be used by teachers to better understand their students' instructional needs for the 2020-2021 school year. The IE assessments are aligned to Essential Elements on which the student's 2020-2021 instruction will be based and can be used to gather baseline data and guide instruction. Use of the IE assessments is completely *optional* and has no impact on the required year-end, summative DLM assessment that is administered to students each spring.

It is important to note that these IE assessments are separate and distinct from the year-end, summative assessment administered each spring. Results from these assessments should be used *to guide and inform* instruction. They do not predict how well students will do on testlets taken during the spring assessment window, nor do they predict students' summative results.

DLM Fall IE Window: September 14, 2020 to December 23, 2020

New Jersey school districts may access the DLM IE assessments through the Educator Portal as one way to support students and teachers as in-person instruction resumes.

DLM Fall IE Administration Guidance

DLM has issued [comprehensive guidance](#) to assist school districts in administering the IE assessments. Additional guidance on using the IE assessments to inform instructional strategies and track student progress for students with significant intellectual disabilities is available at the [DLM professional development website](#).

DLM Fall IE Window Test Administration Training and Data Considerations

The Moodle training for the IE assessment administration became available on **September 1, 2020**. To access the IE assessments, test administrators will be required to go through online Moodle training as required to for the regular spring assessment window, but with an additional module regarding use of the IE assessments. If test administrators utilize the IE model and pass the required training, they will **not** have to redo the spring Moodle training.

At the end of the special fall IE administration window, the NJDOE will erase the rosters and student data in the Educator Portal system and will revert to the customary steps regarding data from NJ SMART and data verification required for the spring 2021 DLM administration.

Contact Information

Please note that no student's personally identifiable information (PII) should be sent via email, which includes full student identification (SID) numbers. Please send only the last four digits of the student SID number in email if necessary.

- For questions related to using the DLM IE testlets, DLM manuals, Educator Portal, and Kite (the portal that students use to take tests), please email DLM Customer Service at DLM-Support@ku.edu or call (855) 277-9751.
- If you have Educator Portal, Kite, data or technology issues that were not resolved by DLM Customer Service, please email them to assessment@doe.nj.gov.
- For questions regarding the usage of the DLM Essential Elements and instruction, please contact Kim Murray at Kimberly.murray@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group