



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 25, 2021

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

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Division of Student Services

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Division of Academics and Performance

## Dynamic Learning Maps: Special Instructionally Embedded Fall 2021 Assessment Window

In order 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 2021 for students with significant intellectual disabilities. These IE assessments may be used by teachers to better understand their student's instructional needs for the 2021-2022 school year. The IE assessments are aligned to Essential Elements on which the student's 2021-2022 instruction will be based and can be used to gather baseline data and guide instruction. Use of the IE assessments are available at no cost, 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 2021 IE Window: September 13 to December 17, 2021**

New Jersey districts may access the DLM IE assessments through the Educator Portal as one way to support students and teachers. The DLM IE assessments must be completed in-person; there is no remote option for administration per the vendor.

**Note:** At the end of the fall IE administration window on December 17th, NJDOE will erase **all 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 2022 DLM Year End (YE) administration. District Test Coordinators and Data Managers **should not** enroll and roster students for the spring 2022 YE DLM administration until guidance regarding the spring administration is released.

### **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 instruction and track student progress and instructional strategies for students with significant intellectual disabilities is available at the [DLM professional development website](#).

### **DLM Fall IE Window Test Administration Training**

The Moodle training for the IE assessment administration became available on **August 3, 2021**. To access the IE assessments, test administrators will be required to go through online Moodle training as they are required to do 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 for the Spring 2022 assessment window.

### **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 send the last four digits of the student's 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Kimberly.murray@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
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