



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 31, 2022

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

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

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

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Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Dynamic Learning Maps: Instructionally Embedded Mandatory Fall 2022 Assessment Window

With the implementation of the Start Strong assessments to provide immediate data for educators in planning their academic supports for students in the 2022-2023 school year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is requiring districts administer the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) DLM instructionally embedded (IE) assessments in the fall of 2022 for students with significant intellectual disabilities.

The DLM IE assessments should be used by teachers to better understand their student's instructional needs for the 2022-2023 school year. These assessments are aligned to Essential Elements on which the student's 2022-2023 instruction will be based and can be used to gather baseline data and guide instruction.

It is important to note that the DLM 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 2022 IE Window: September 12 to December 23, 2022

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

The DLM IE assessments can be administered a single time to establish a baseline of student learning and inform instruction; they can also be used across the entire administration window in an instructional cycle. In this scenario, the teacher administers the DLM IE testlets after instruction on selected Essential Elements to track student progress, provides instruction on Essential Elements that have not been mastered, and administers the IE again later in the testing window. The decision as to whether the DLM IE will be administered a single time to establish a baseline or multiple times as part of an instructional cycle will be made at the local level.

DLM Fall IE Administration Guidance

DLM has issued [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 DLM-developed test administrator training for the IE assessment administration is now available. To access the IE assessments, test administrators will be required to go through online training as they are required to do for the regular spring assessment window, but with an additional module regarding use of the IE assessments.

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 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 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 questions to assessment@doe.nj.gov.
- For questions regarding the usage of the DLM Essential Elements and instruction, please contact Amanda Philp at amanda.philp@doe.nj.gov.

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