



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 26, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: February 3, 2023

Dynamic Learning Maps Spring Assessment 1% Justification Form and Tier 1 Universal Technical Assistance for Exceeding the 1% Cap

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* allows for the use of alternate assessments, based on alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. In New Jersey, this alternate assessment is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM).

The *ESSA* requires that no more than 1% of the total number of tested students participate in the DLM assessment. **School districts are not prohibited from assessing more than 1% of their tested students with the DLM; however, they are required to submit information justifying the need to exceed the 1% limit.**

Under direction from the United States Department of Education (USED), New Jersey is required to conduct activities, statewide and in selected districts with high DLM participation rates, to ensure that only those students who meet [DLM participation criteria](#) participate in the assessment. These activities will assist district IEP teams in making individualized decisions, based on multiple sources of student data, regarding student participation in statewide assessments. Please visit the [DLM website](#) for more information on the DLM assessment and participation criteria.

The USED allows for individual school districts with more than 1% of their tested students taking the DLM to do so with justification. If you anticipate that participation in the **DLM Spring Year End (YE)** assessment in your district will exceed 1% for the 2022-2023 school year, you must use the search function on the [DLM Resources](#) webpage for the justification form, submit for review and **participate in the Tier 1 Universal Technical Assistance** support activities. Any Local Educational Agency (LEA) that anticipates exceeding the 1% cap for the DLM YE assessment in the 2022-2023 academic year will be required to:

- 1) Review of a [pre-recorded webinar](#) training;
- 2) Complete a [questionnaire](#) to affirm content knowledge from the webinar; and
- 3) Complete and submit the [1% Justification Form](#).

Guidelines for calculating the DLM participation rate can be found on the form. It is important to include students placed in separate public programs in other school districts or approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) in these calculations. Email justification forms to Amanda.Philp@doe.nj.gov by **February 3, 2023**. Your participation in this process will enable the NJDOE to ensure that we have the most accurate representation of the results of students with the most significant disabilities in the accountability system.

If you or your staff have any questions or need assistance, contact Amanda Philp at Amanda.Philp@doe.nj.gov.

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

NJ LEE Group