



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 16, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commission
Division of Educational Services
Due Date: February 7, 2025

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) 1% Justification Form Spring Assessment 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. **Local Education Agencies (LEAs) 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 the direction of the United States Department of Education (USED), New Jersey is required to conduct activities statewide and in selected LEAs with high DLM participation rates to ensure that only those students who meet [DLM participation criteria](#) participate in the assessment. These activities will assist IEP teams in making individualized decisions, based on multiple sources of student data, regarding student participation in statewide assessments. Please visit the [DLM website](#) and the [NJ DLM Resource Library](#) for more information and resources on the DLM assessment and participation criteria.

The USED allows for LEAs with more than 1% of their tested students taking the DLM to do so with justification. Any LEA that **anticipates** exceeding the 1% cap for the DLM year-end assessment in the 2024-2025 academic year will be required to [complete an online self-paced training](#), see registration information below, and submit the completed [1% Justification Form](#).

Guidelines for calculating the DLM participation rate can be found on the justification form and in the Tier 1 Universal Technical Assistance training¹. LEAs must include students placed in separate public programs in other LEAs, and receiving schools, including Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSDs), in these calculations. Justification forms should be submitted by email to AAParticipation@doe.nj.gov by **February 7, 2025**.

Registration Information for Tier 1 Universal Technical Assistance

LEA staff can self-enroll in the training by using this URL: <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/LGBNWC>.

Alternatively, LEA staff can sign up at <https://canvas.instructure.com/register> and use the following join code: LGBNWC.

Please direct all questions to the Office of Special Education at AAParticipation@doe.nj.gov.

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

¹ Only one staff member (e.g., District Test Coordinator, Director of Special Education, etc.) is required to complete the Tier 1 Universal Technical Assistance Training.