

New Jersey Department of Education
Alternate Assessment Action Plan

1. Revise the Participation Criteria for the 2025-2026 Administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
Convene an internal workgroup to review/revise the existing participation criteria for the DLM.	June 2024	June 2024	<u>Internal WG</u> <i>OSE Staff</i> <i>Assessment Member</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Utilize the training and technical assistance from NCEO provided by USED to review the existing participation criteria and identify areas requiring revision.	August 2024	September 2024	Internal WG NCEO	<i>Complete</i>
Develop draft of revised criteria to be used by LEAs and a training plan to assist with effective implementation.	September 2024	November 2024	Internal WG	<i>Complete</i>
Finalize criteria and implement training and technical assistance plan to include: guidance and technical assistance to LEA administrators and educators, families and other stakeholders; written guidance, county-level presentations and regional training.	January 2025	February 2025	Internal WG	<i>Complete</i> 2025-2026 Participation Criteria Alternate Assessment Resource Guide Alternate Assessment FAQ Document
Implement new criteria for 2025-2026 administration of DLM and New Jersey State Learning Assessments.	February 2025	July 2025		<i>Complete</i> March 2025 Broadcast Memo
2. LEA Data on 1% Participation Rates Added to Annual Determinations Matrix				

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Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
<p>Rate of participation in the DLM assessment was added to the matrix for the 2022-2023 Annual Determinations issued on May 31, 2024.</p> <p>LEAs below the 1% participation rate receive the highest score of “4”. LEAs above the 1% participation rate receive a score of “1” or “0” dependent on the rate.</p> <p>LEAs that identified as “Needs Assistance” will receive targeted training and technical assistance from OSE staff.</p>	June 2024	Ongoing	Office of Special Education	<p><i>Complete</i></p> <p>Update 235 LEAs received a score of “0” or “1” for a DLM participation rate of 1% or higher.</p> <p>Nine LEAs identified as “Needs Assistance” received technical assistance on the DLM participation criteria.</p>
3. DLM Participation Added to the Office of Special Educations’ Monitoring Risk Assessment Tool				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
<p>The participation rate in the DLM assessment was added to the risk assessment tool used to identify LEAs for Tier 2 onsite comprehensive monitoring.</p> <p>The risk assessment consists of 13 domains. Each domain is assigned a value between two and eight, with a total possible score of 64. Any LEA exceeding</p>	July 2024	Ongoing	Special Education Monitors	<p><i>Complete</i></p> <p>Update The comprehensive monitoring risk assessment was revised for the 2024-2025 school year to include the DLM participation rate as a risk factor. The DLM participation rate was identified as a risk in 64 of the approximately 125 LEAs participating in comprehensive monitoring.</p>

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the 1% participation rate receives a score of “7” in that domain. LEAs with a score of 52 or higher will participate in intensive Tier 2 monitoring				
4. DLM Assessment Added to the Office of Special Education Monitoring Protocols				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
<p>Each LEA in the comprehensive monitoring cohort completes a desk monitoring tool that is submitted to OSE for verification. The results of that desk monitoring are combined with other risk assessment factors to determine if intensive Tier 2 monitoring is required.</p> <p>The desk monitoring protocols will be revised to include a section on the DLM participation and documentation. LEAs will submit the IEPs and participation criteria for 10 OSE-selected students who participated in the DLM assessment. Areas of focus include adherence to the participation guidelines when deciding assessment participation and appropriate documentation of decision making in the IEP.</p>	July 2024	Ongoing	Special Education Monitors	<p><i>Complete</i></p> <p>Update The comprehensive monitoring protocols and data collection forms used in the 2024-2025 school year were revised to address adherence to the participation guidelines when deciding assessment participation and appropriate documentation of decision making in the IEP. 17 of the approximately 125 LEAs participating in comprehensive monitoring were identified for noncompliance in this area.</p>

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Ongoing Activity: Targeted Review Process for LEAs Exceeding the 1% CAP

- 1% Targeted Review Activities
 - Special education monitors met with LEAs to conduct technical assistance sessions on decision-making and the appropriate application of the participation criteria.
 - TA providers from the Office of Special Education developed a needs assessment which was provided to all identified LEAs to determine the programmatic needs related to staff development that could assist LEAs in addressing exceeding the 1% cap. Training materials were developed to address LEA needs and were presented to each LEA in an individual training session.
 - All LEAs exceeding the 1% participation rate cap must complete online training modules.

Ongoing Activity: NJDOE SEA Staff Participate in Working Groups and PLGs Related to the 1% Participation Rate

- Staff participated in the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) series of Peer Learning Groups (PLGs) around the 1% issue.
- PLG #2 Guiding and Evaluating LEA Justifications for Exceeding the 1% Cap” met virtually June through August.
- PLG #3 “Building Capacity of IEP Teams and Parents in Making Decisions about Assessment Participation will meet virtually October through December.
- OSE is a Member of the Assessment, Standards, & Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES) collaborative.

Ongoing Activity: Justification Document

Justification Revision History

- August 2025
 - The justification form to be used in the 2025-2026 school year was revised to align with the changes to the participation criteria document. Specifically, the eligibility categories that are not associated with an intellectual disability have been removed from the justification form.
 - The Statement of Assurances in the justification form has been revised to include completion of an online training module on DLM participation criteria.
- 2022-2023
 - The justification form includes an attestation that LEA special education leadership have viewed the online training module on the 1% cap requirement. NJDOE maintains a record to ensure all required LEAs have participated in the training.
- 2019-2020
 - The justification form LEAs submit when they anticipate exceeding the 1% participation rate in the AA-AAAS was revised to include:
 - The percent and number of students participating in the AA-AAAs for math and ELA;
 - The number of students in each special education eligibility category participating in the AA-AAS; and
 - The number and percent of students participating in the AA-AAAS for the two previous school years.

Ongoing Activity: Identifying all LEAs Exceeding 1% CAP

Data from the prior DLM administration are reviewed to:

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- Identify all LEAs exceeding the 1% participation cap.
- Confirm that all LEAs exceeding the cap submitted a justification form.
 - OSE followed up with any LEAs that did not initially submit the form to ensure compliance and those LEAs were required to participate in online training.