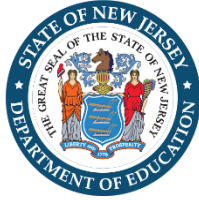


STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment Action Plan

Ongoing Activities

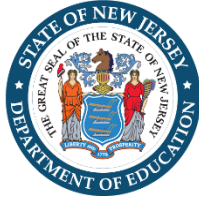
Inclusion of DLM Participation Data in Annual Determinations	August 2026 Update
Rate of participation in the DLM assessment was added to the matrix for the 2022-2023 Annual Determinations issued on May 31, 2024. LEAs below the 1% participation rate receive the highest score of "4". LEAs with a participation rate between 1.0% and 1.24% receive a score of "3". LEAs with a participation rate between 1.25% and 1.49% receive a score of "2". LEAs with a participation rate between 1.5%-1.99% receive a score of "1". LEAs at or above 2.0% participation rate receive a score of "0". LEAs that identified as "Needs Assistance" will receive targeted training and technical assistance from OSE staff.	410 LEAs received a score of "0", "1", "2", or "3" for a participation of 1% of higher. 175 LEAs received a score of "0" for a participation rate at or above 2.0%. 106 LEAs received a score of "1" for a participation rate between 1.5%-1.99%. 68 LEAs received a score of "2" for a participation rate between 1.25%-1.49%. 61 LEAs received a score of "3" for a participation rate between 1.0%-1.24%. Ten LEAs identified as "Needs Assistance" received technical assistance on the DLM participation criteria.
Inclusion of DLM Participation Rates in the Comprehensive Monitoring Risk Assessment	August 2026 Update
The participation rate in the DLM assessment was added to the risk assessment tool used to identify LEAs for Tier 2 onsite comprehensive monitoring in 2024-2025 school year.	The comprehensive monitoring risk assessment was revised for the 2025-2026 school year to include the DLM participation rate as a risk factor. The DLM participation rate was identified as a risk



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment Action Plan

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 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	in 52 of the approximately 90 LEAs participating in comprehensive monitoring.
Monitoring of IEP Documentation Supporting DLM Participation Decisions	August 2026 Update
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. The desk monitoring protocols were revised in 2024-2025 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.	The comprehensive monitoring protocols and data collection forms used in the 2025-2026 school year were revised to address adherence to the participation guidelines when deciding assessment participation and appropriate documentation of decision making in the IEP. 24 of the approximately 90 LEAs participating in comprehensive monitoring were identified for noncompliance in this area.
Targeted Review Process for LEAs Exceeding the 1% CAP	August 2026 Update
NJDOE reviews district participation data annually to identify LEAs for targeted review and technical assistance regarding the application of the DLM participation entrance criteria. Based on this review, special education monitors conduct technical assistance sessions with identified LEAs to promote appropriate decision-making and consistent application of the criteria. The Office of Special Education also administers a needs assessment to LEAs exceeding the 1% participation rate cap to identify professional development needs and provide customized training and resources. In addition, all LEAs exceeding the 1% cap are required to complete online training modules. Together, these activities support the appropriate identification of students for participation in the DLM and help ensure that LEAs comply with state and federal assessment requirements.	The targeted review cycle begins each fall. Districts identified through NJDOE's review of participation data receive notification and are required to complete a needs assessment. The results of the assessment enable the Office of Special Education (OSE) to develop and provide individualized training and technical assistance tailored to each district's specific needs related to the application of the DLM participation criteria.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment Action Plan

NJDOE Staff Participation in Working Groups and PLGs Related to the 1% Participation Rate	August 2026 Update
NJDOE Office of Special Education (OSE) staff continue to participate in the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) Peer Learning Groups (PLGs) focused on issues related to the 1% alternate assessment participation cap. Ongoing participation includes PLGs addressing the evaluation of LEA justifications for exceeding the 1% cap and strategies for building the capacity of IEP teams and families to make appropriate assessment participation decisions. In addition, OSE continues its membership in the Assessment, Standards, and Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES) Collaborative. These ongoing professional learning and collaboration efforts support NJDOE's continuous improvement of guidance, policies, and technical assistance related to alternate assessment participation and federal compliance requirement.	Ongoing
Improving Data Quality and Strengthening LEA Justification Processes for the 1% Cap	August 2026 Update
NJDOE has continued to strengthen the quality and usefulness of data collected from LEAs exceeding the 1% alternate assessment participation cap while ensuring that all required LEAs submit justification forms. The justification form has been revised over time to collect more meaningful information, including district participation rates and counts, trends across multiple years, and student eligibility data. For the 2025-2026 school year, the form was further updated to align with the revised DLM participation criteria by removing eligibility categories not associated with intellectual disability and by adding an assurance that required staff have completed online training on DLM participation criteria. In addition, NJDOE annually reviews participation data from the prior DLM administration to identify all LEAs exceeding the 1% cap, verify submission of	Ongoing



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment Action Plan

required justification forms, and conduct follow-up with any LEAs that do not initially comply. LEAs exceeding the cap are required to complete online training, and NJDOE maintains records of participation to support accountability and informed decision-making. These ongoing improvements help ensure complete reporting, meaningful data collection, and targeted support for districts implementing alternate assessment participation requirements.

Completed Activities

Revise the Participation Criteria for the 2025-2026 Administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment	Date Completed
NJDOE convened an internal workgroup to review and revise the DLM participation criteria, leveraging training and technical assistance provided by the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). The Department developed and finalized revised participation criteria, along with a comprehensive training and technical assistance plan. Guidance and training were provided to LEA administrators, educators, families, and other stakeholders through written resources, county-level presentations, and regional sessions. The revised criteria were successfully implemented for the 2025-2026 administration of the DLM and New Jersey State Learning Assessments.	March 2025