New Jersey Student Learning Assessments

Dynamic Learning Maps Results

Spring 2024 Administration

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What is the DLM Assessment?

- The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternative assessment is for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

- Students in Grades 3 - 8 show their performance on content standards called Essential Elements in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Those students in Grades 4 and 8 who participate in the DLM also take the Science assessment.

- The DLM is an online assessment. Some students may need their teacher to present the items to them. The teacher will then enter the student's response into the online platform.

- The DLM system is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year. Instruction for students is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Why Assess Using a DLM?

- A learning map is a network of sequenced learning targets. Often, we think of learning as one skill building on another single skill.

- A dynamic learning map, by comparison, shows a learning landscape in which multiple skills are related to many other skills.

- Dynamic learning maps not only show the relationships between skills but also show multiple learning pathways.

The DLM's Essential Elements

- The DLM assessments are based on Essential Elements. Essential Elements are grade-level-specific expectations about what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do.

- Essential Elements are related to college and career readiness standards for students in the general population. They are tailored to measure each student's academic achievement.

- There are items at several different levels of complexity. Each level addresses a portion of content related to the target Essential Element.

Performance Categories

Emerging

The student demonstrates emerging understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements

Approaching the Target

The student's understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is approaching the target.

At Target

The students understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements at target

Advanced

The student demonstrates advanced understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.

How Results are Calculated

DLM results are not based on raw or scale scores; all results are calculated using an approach called diagnostic classification modeling.

This approach determines whether the student showed mastery of specific skills. Based on evidence from the DLM assessments, the student either mastered or did not master each skill.

For each Essential Element tested, a student may master up to five skills in ELA and Math or up to three skills in Science at different levels, called linkage levels.

The student's overall performance in the subject is based upon the number of linkage levels mastered across the tested Essential Elements.

Overall District Results

Participation Rate: 100% of students who were eligible for DLM took it

Test	Number of students	Emerging	Approaching	At Target	Advanced
Language Arts	11	*	*	*	*
Math	11	*	*	*	*
Science	3	*	*	*	*

* Less than 10 students. Data can not be reported

Intervention Strategies

Teachers analyze the DLM data in order to provide specialized instruction to each student.

Case managers adjust IEP goals with the instructional staff based on student achievement and needs.

Case managers and service providers meet to brainstorm differentiated strategies for each student.

Supplemental programming is provided based on student need.

Next Steps

Service providers and teachers will continue to analyze student assessment data from local academic measures to support students in their IEP goal attainment.

Teachers are using the DLM results to inform instructional decisions. They have meetings throughout the year to analyze the data and develop action plans to address the areas of need

Thank you!