



ASSESSMENT

2024–25



QUESTIONS? PED.ASSESSMENT@PED.NM.GOV

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DLM FACT SHEET

What students qualify for DLM testing?

Dynamic Learning Maps is New Mexico's federally required alternate assessment for students with the **most significant cognitive disabilities** whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams designate the state's alternate assessment as the most appropriate academic assessment. DLM is designed for students who are unable to utilize general state assessments even with assessment-specific accommodations.

Students who meet the following guidelines qualify to participate in the DLM assessment:

- Educational Agency has diagnostic documentation in an IEP of one or more most significant cognitive disabilities which significantly affect intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. See the [PED Most Significant Cognitive Disability Definition](#).
- The student is primarily instructed using the [Essential Elements](#) as content standards. Goals and instructions listed in the student's IEP are linked to the enrolled grade-level DLM Essential Elements and address the knowledge and skills that are appropriate and challenging for this student.
- The student requires extensive, direct, and individualized instruction and substantial support to achieve measurable gains in the grade- and age-appropriate curriculum. The student requires extensive, repeated, and individualized instruction and support that is not temporary or transient, and the student uses substantially adapted material and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate, and transfer skills across multiple settings.
- For more information on determining if the DLM is the appropriate assessment for a student, please refer to the [DLM Participation Guidelines](#) or visit the [DLM Professional Development](#) site.

Who takes the DLM?

- Most significantly disabled students in Grades 3–8 and 11 take DLM in English Language Arts and Math in lieu of the NM-MSSA or SAT School Day.
- Most significantly disabled students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 take DLM in Science in lieu of NM-ASR.
- Most significantly disabled ELs enrolled in a U.S. school for less than a full academic year may be exempted from taking the ELA assessment during their first year in a U.S. school. They will be required to participate in the math, science, and English Language Proficiency assessments as appropriate.
 - DLM is not available in other languages but can be translated into the student's native language by a qualified Test Administrator as an accessibility feature.

What does the test measure?

DLM measures proficiency in the Essential Elements (EE) for [English Language Arts Essential Elements](#), [DLM Math Essential Elements](#), and [DLM Science Essential Elements](#). EEs are alternate academic standards linked with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards, although at less-complex skill levels.

The Instructional Scope resources below provide additional guidance on alignment between instruction, K–12 CCSS standards, and DLM.

- [DLM ELA Assessment Model Blueprint](#)
- [Blueprint Mathematics for Year-End Model](#)
- [Blueprint Science Phase I – General](#)

When is the test given?

The **required** summative DLM assessment is administered in the spring of each academic year.

Note: There is an **optional** instructionally embedded instructional assessment available for free to LEAs. This **Instructionally Embedded Assessment** window is open September – February each year. The Instructionally Embedded assessment is not required. However, it provides additional data for educators and serves as an alternative to the General Education interim assessments. It also helps familiarize students with the format of the end-of-year assessment.

How is the test administered?

- DTC and test administrators must complete the **required training modules via the KITE educator portal** each year.
- Completion of the First Contact Survey and Personal Needs profile are due by **November 15, 2024**. These are required before a test can be administered to a student in DLM to fit individual student needs.
- First Contact Survey Instructions: **Completing the First Contact Survey**.
 - Once the First Contact Survey is completed, it takes 24 hours to activate the DLM assessment mapping algorithms.
- Prior to testing, educators need to review the Testlet Information Pages (TIP) within the educator portal which include:
 - identification if the testlet is computer-delivered or educator-administered
 - materials needed
 - materials to use
 - suggested substitute materials
 - accessibility supports not allowed
- DLM is administered by an educator who has completed the required **DLM Test Administrator Training** and who is familiar with the student in a 1:1 setting.
- DLM is not a timed test. Test sessions are adapted to the student's ability and attention span. Because of the dynamic nature of the assessment, it can take up to 15 minutes for a subsequent testlet to load; please schedule accordingly.

What are the Four Performance Levels?

Emerging	Approaching	At Target	Advanced
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Where can I access reports?

Educators can access student reports via the **Kite Educator Portal**. LEAs can provide access to parents via the **Kite Parent Portal**.

For more information on DLM, visit **DLM-New Mexico** or the **NM State Assessment Site**.