School Readiness: Lessons Learned during DLM Field Testing

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Overview of the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment

• Fine-grained learning maps
• A subset of particularly important nodes that serve as content standards - Essential Elements
• Instructionally-embedded and year-end assessments
• Instructionally relevant testlets
• Accessibility and alternate pathways
• Dynamic assessment
• Status and growth reporting that is readily actionable
• Professional development
• A technology platform to tie it all together
Lessons Learned about Providing Resources

• How your organize information makes a difference
  – Quick checklists
  – Comprehensive documents

• District people need to have role-specific information

• State capacity is critically important to the district staff
Lessons Learned About Training

• District people need a training structure, not just good self-directed training materials
• Different teachers learn best with different approaches
• Confusion between required and optional resources
• Educators need time and experience before a new system becomes routine
Lessons Learned about Help Desk Support

• Educators are a immensely flexible group.
• Educators initiate contact via email more often than phone.
• Minor changes to resources and training provided are visibly amplified at the help desk.
  – A single sentence can cause noticeable increase in calls & emails.
• Smaller testing populations, with more educators, require a larger than expected staff to support.
  – The economies of scale work against DLM educators.
THANK YOU!

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