



# Talking to Parents/Guardians about Score Reports

Students taking the Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) alternate assessment receive score reports following their spring assessments. These reports become available in Educator Portal over the summer, and teachers typically access them in the fall when they return to school. This guide is designed to help teachers talk about DLM score reports when meeting with parents and guardians in the fall.

For questions about school and state accountability, please contact your district test coordinator or state department of education.

A Parent Interpretive Guide for DLM score reports is located on your state’s DLM webpage. Review this guide and share it with parents. Access the guide using the following steps.

1. Visit <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/>.
2. In the banner at the top of the screen, go to the STATES tab and select your state.
3. Select the Scoring and Reporting tab.
4. Scroll down the page and select “Parent Interpretive Guide.” This guide can be downloaded and printed.

## Getting Ready for the Meeting

- Set a positive tone when meeting with parents/guardians to review the Parent Interpretive Guide and the student’s results.
- Review the report, the Parent Interpretive Guide, and this guide to make sure you are comfortable with the language in the report.
- Think about different explanations you may need to provide to describe the report contents. If you need to modify the language in the report, be careful not to change the intended meaning. For example, it would be acceptable to substitute “reading and writing” for “English language arts” or “ELA.” However, do not refer to ELA as just “reading,” because the ELA assessment includes more than just reading.
- Review sections of the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL and ACCESSIBILITY MANUAL to remind yourself about topics that parents are likely to ask about.

## Discussing the Score Report

The report consists of a Learning Profile. The Learning Profile summarizes the student’s mastery of specific linkage levels for each assessed Essential Element. Remind parents/guardians that COVID-19 caused school and district closures and impacted the spring administration of the DLM alternate assessment. As such, Individual Student Score Reports summarize performance on any assessment the student completed while assessments were available for the 2019–2020 school year.

## Learning Profile

- This profile shows the student’s mastery of certain skills, or levels, for each assessed Essential Element. Each row is one Essential Element. Each level is a skill.
- Remind parents/guardians that skills demonstrated during this assessment provide only one piece of evidence about what their child knows and can do.
- Provide examples of the Essential Elements. If appropriate, tell and/or show the parents/guardians where the Essential Elements are located on your state webpage.
- Give academic examples of the skills. Help with this can be found in the mini-maps for each Essential Element.
- Tell or show parents/guardians how the Essential Elements relate to what is being taught to grade level peers.
- Explain that the Target is the grade level expectation for all students.
- Explain the green boxes. Focus on what skills the student was able to show during the assessment. Sometimes students perform skills inconsistently. Other times they show skills during instruction but may not have shown them during the DLM alternate assessment.
- Provide examples of how the student demonstrates knowledge of this skill during instruction.
- Encourage the parent to think about the blue, gray, or white boxes as areas for future instructional goals.
- Explain the blueprint and how choices were made about which Essential Elements and levels to assess.

REPORT DATE: 12-13-2019  
 SUBJECT: English language arts  
 GRADE: 10

Individual Student End-of-Year Report  
 Learning Profile 2019-20



NAME: Student DLM  
 DISTRICT: DLM District  
 SCHOOL: DLM School

DISTRICT ID: 12345  
 STATE: DLM State  
 STATE ID: 404596

The Spring 2020 assessment window was significantly impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Results show what Student was able to demonstrate during the part of the year when assessments were available.

Student's performance in 10<sup>th</sup> grade English language arts Essential Elements is summarized below. This information is based on all of the DLM tests Student took during the 2019-20 school year. Grade 10 had 19 Essential Elements in 4 Conceptual Areas available for instruction during the 2019-20 school year. The minimum required number of Essential Elements for testing in 10<sup>th</sup> grade was 10. Student was tested on 12 Essential Elements in 4 of the 4 Conceptual Areas.

Demonstrating mastery of a Level during the assessment assumes mastery of all prior Levels in the Essential Element. This table describes what skills your child demonstrated in the assessment and how those skills compare to grade level expectations.

Area	Essential Element	Level Mastery				
		1	2	3	4 (Target)	5
ELA C1.2	ELA EE.L.9-10.4.a	Identify familiar objects through property word descriptors	Identify definition of words	Identify missing words using sentence context	Use semantic clues to identify word meaning	Use semantic clues to identify phrase meaning
ELA C1.2	ELA EE.L.9-10.5.b	Draw conclusions from category knowledge	Identify the multiple meanings of a word	Identify word meaning of multiple meaning words using context clues	Identify the intended meaning of multiple meaning words	Understand how multiple meaning words can result in humor
ELA C1.2	ELA EE.RI.9-10.1	Identify concrete details in a familiar informational text	Identify concrete details in an informational text	Cite textual evidence for inferred information	Discriminate between citations for explicit and inferred information	Cite evidence for a text's specific meaning
ELA C1.2	ELA EE.RI.9-10.2	Identify concrete details in an informational text	Identify details relevant to the topic of text	Summarize a familiar informative text	Identify key details supporting the central idea	Support implicit and explicit meaning with details

Levels mastered this year
  No evidence of mastery on this Essential Element
  Essential Element not tested
 Page 1 of 4

This report is intended to serve as one source of evidence in an instructional planning process. Results combine all item responses from the full academic year. Because your child may demonstrate knowledge and skills differently across settings, the estimated mastery results shown here may not fully represent what your child knows and can do.  
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The format of the sample above applies to all DLM subjects. For science reports, the table within the Learning Profile will only contain three columns under “Level Mastery,” which correspond to the three linkage levels in science (Initial, Precursor, and Target).

Remember, convey to parents how the DLM alternate assessment is a part of their child’s educational journey.

### Other Information

The following information may help you talk with parents/guardians about other aspects of DLM assessments. Use the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL, found on your state’s DLM webpage, to locate other information that will help with your conversations.

#### About the assessment administration

- Explain that this is not a typical assessment. The students are administered 3–9 items grouped together in small testlets. Each testlet is at one level for one Essential Element.
- Explain how the student accessed the assessment (computer or other device) and what accessibility supports were used.
- Explain that the testlets can be either teacher-administered or computer-delivered,

depending on the student.

- Since the reports from spring testing are being shared with the parents/guardians the following fall, consider sharing the Essential Elements for the next grade the child will be taught.

Be prepared to show examples of the Essential Elements. The Essential Elements are available to share. You may explain the assessment and what the student sees on the computer screen. However, do not give specific examples of assessment items. The assessment items are secure even after test administration is complete. Example testlets that can be shared with parents/guardians are available on the DLM website at <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/information-parents>.

Additionally, parents/guardians can download Student Portal and use practice activities and released testlets that are available on the DLM website to have a good understanding of what the testlets are like. Show them the [Guide to Practice Activities & Released Testlets \(pdf\)](#) so they know how to find these available testlets.

Notes: