



Score Report Helplet: What is Skill Mastery? Transcript

Slide 1. The Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) Alternate Assessment Consortium provides Individual Student Score Reports for students who completed the DLM alternate assessment during the previous school year. Score reports are used to communicate achievement within grade-level content standards to educators, parents, and others.

The reports are designed to be useful in preparing IEP documents. The reports also support teachers in making decisions about instruction.

This video describes skill mastery, which is the basis of reporting DLM results.

Slide 2. DLM score reports summarize student mastery of skills in the subject. Skill mastery is not based on a number of trials or percent of correct results alone. Skill mastery is based on a probability that the student mastered the skill given the student's answers to all of the items about that skill, and other skills within the EE. In the example, the assessment covered 50 skills and the student mastered 17. It's important to remember that all evidence of skill mastery is based on the testlets taken. A student's performance in a subject is based on the number of skills mastered in relation to the total skills covered in the assessment.

For more information on Essential Elements and the content of DLM assessments, see the helplet entitled *What is Measured by DLM Assessments?* For more information on score reports and their contents, see the helplet entitled *What Information is in a Score Report?*

Slide 3. For each Essential Element measured by the assessment, the skills, or linkage levels, are interconnected, like in the image shown here. Each row represents one linkage level in the Essential Element.

During the assessment, students respond to items measuring a linkage level. Their responses to those items are used to determine whether or not the linkage level has been mastered. Because the skills are connected within the Essential Element using the underlying learning map structure, the system also makes decisions about whether a student has mastered other linkage levels that were not assessed. For example, if a student has mastered one linkage level, it is likely that this student has mastered the skills in all the lower linkage levels for that Essential Element. Like any test score, DLM alternate assessment results aren't perfect, but student results represent the most likely status of their skills on the day the student was tested.

Slide 4. Each Essential Element is structured into linkage levels. Shown here is an example of the five linkage levels for Essential Element ELA.RI.7.5. The skills are identified by their linkage level names. From least to most complex, they are Initial Precursor, Distal Precursor, Proximal Precursor, Target, and Successor.

Slide 5. The testlets a student takes provide information about their mastery of skills for the Essential Element. If a student is classified as a master of skills at a particular linkage level, then the student is also assumed to be a master of the lower-level skills.

In the example shown, mastered skills are shaded. The student mastered the skills at the Proximal Precursor linkage level, so DLM scoring assumes the student has also mastered the skills at the Distal Precursor and Initial Precursor linkage levels as well. The Target and Successor linkage levels are not shaded, indicating that the student was either not assessed on those linkage levels or did not master the skills at those levels.

Slide 6. In summary, DLM assessment scoring is based on skill mastery. A student's level of mastery is determined by student performance on testlets. Each Essential Element has testlets available at linkage levels of increasing difficulty. Linkage levels are the skills that are assessed for an Essential Element. When a student demonstrates mastery at a higher linkage level, DLM scoring assumes the student has mastered the skills at the lower linkage levels for that Essential Element.

For more information on content measured by DLM assessments, please see the helplet entitled [What do the DLM Alternate Assessments Measure?](#)