



DLM – Instructionally Embedded / Early Fall - 2021 Test Administration

Test Administration Dates: 9/13/2021 – 10/29/2021

1. Providing the information in a timely fashion will be very important.
 - *MSDE is always committed to responding to questions in a timely manner.*
2. To prepare schools for a window that opens on September 13, 2021, it is imperative that we are trained with enough time to provide turnkey training to schools and ultimately teachers. Receiving information on August 25 only gives us 11 workdays to process the new information ourselves, prepare materials, and train over 150 STCs and our teachers. We will be doing this preparation while we are learning the assessment at the same time.
 - *MSDE has been preparing for the use of the DLM – Mathematics, ELA and Science assessment since 2020. Training was provided for all districts/schools in January 2020 and multiple resources have been provided for the IE assessments to all districts/schools. These resources are available on the DLM Maryland website (<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland>). Districts/schools would have provided training for 2020-21 therefore staff should have received training and information on DLM – Mathematics, ELA and Science. The DLM platform is easy to use, and the training that DLM will provide in August – 2021 regarding the Instructionally Embedded Assessments will certainly support both new and veteran staff in this process.*
3. A pre-cursor to training is the uploading of the multiple files required by DLM. At this time, we are not aware of when the LSS will be able to upload a file?
 - *Districts/schools will be able to register and roster students at the grade they were in during the 2020-2021 school year in order to test student's off-grade. A template will be provided on August 2, 2021 for this upload which can be kept for later use.*
4. Grade 9 students are not usually part of the testing group. This is a whole new set of teachers who will need to be trained, not only on the system but the assessment itself. They, as well as many others will likely need additional support and time.
 - *Grade 9 students will be tested on grade 8 content in the fall 2021. Teachers who will be administering the DLM assessment will need to qualify in order to have students rostered to them. Training materials are always available on the DLM – Maryland website (<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland>), therefore districts/schools can start training staff early on using the DLM platform etc. DLM will provide a comprehensive training in August 2021 on the IE assessments that will support both new and veteran staff.*
5. Will teachers need to do a separate training for the spring since it will be a different assessment than an instructionally embedded assessment?
 - *MSDE will provide a training for the 2021-22 DLM – Mathematics, ELA and Science spring assessment sometime in either late fall or early winter.*

6. What resources will be provided to prepare our STCs and teachers to work with this new model of instructionally embedded assessments and how soon can we start reviewing those?
 - *MSDE made training materials for the IE Assessment's available in August, 2019 and again in November, 2019 to all LEAs. These materials are available on the DLM – Maryland website (<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland>), therefore districts can start early and train staff on using the DLM platform etc. DLM will provide a comprehensive training in August - 2021 specifically on the IE assessments that will support both new and veteran staff.*
7. When will be able to upload a data file? Can we use the file that we were prepared to use this year? Will DLM adjust the grade level?
 - *Districts/schools will be able to register and roster students at the grade they are planning to test the students after August 2, 2021. Teachers will also be able to complete the first contact survey and the security agreement as well as complete the required DLM training after August 2, 2021.*
8. How soon will materials (i.e. data file layouts, tech requirements) be posted to the DLM site?
 - *Districts/schools will be able to register and roster students at the grade they are planning to test the students after August 2, 2021. Teachers will also be able to complete the first contact survey and the security agreement as well as complete the required DLM training after August 2, 2021.*
9. Schools usually use the first month of school to ensure that technology and bandwidth are all working. This assessment is now being administered during this time frame. To complicate issues, all students in Grades 4 through 9 will also be assessing during the same time period.
 - *Districts/schools will be asked to test both MCAP and DLM generally during the same time frame in the fall. This is typical for the spring assessment window, therefore if there have been no issues in spring then I would not foresee any issues in the fall. I would request your technology department review the DLM technology requirements to make sure you have the technology available to support all assessments simultaneously. The DLM Early Fall – IE Assessment can **ONLY** be administered in a **SECURE** school environment.*
10. If these are instructionally imbedded assessments, we would expect students to be assessed based on the current grade instruction they will receive. Is this correct or will students be assessed based last year's grade level? If this is the case, how valid and reliable would the results really be, especially if results will be publicly reported?
 - *Districts/schools will be able to register and roster students at the grade they were in during the 2020-2021 school year in order to test student's off-grade. A template will be provided for this upload which can be kept for later use. MSDE believes the use of the IE Assessments in Early Fall will give the teacher/school/district at least a baseline to help support the student's instructional needs after the many disruptions in 2020.*
11. How many EE need to be tested? If it is a range, who will determine how many? What will be used to determine how many?
 - *MSDE is not requiring any specific EE's to be tested. Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of 5 EE's per content to work on. Teachers/districts/schools can schedule the instruction and assessment in the way that best meets the needs of the student. The timing for DLM assessments is dependent upon the student's abilities. Each testlet is given on a one-to-one basis and requires the*

amount of time needed by the student. The Early Fall IE Assessment test window is 9/13/2021 to 10/29/2021.

12. On average, what should we plan on for testing time for each content area?

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13. Will MSDE be providing guidance on how teachers will select essential elements and then schedule instruction and assessment within the testing window? For example, sample schedules would be helpful.

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14. If the MSDE waiver is not approved, is there an instructionally embedded assessment within DLM for Science? Will be expected to administer that as well?

- *There are 9 testlets available for the IE science assessment at the elementary and at the middle school levels, as well as testlets for high school science in all domains. Teachers are to administer a minimum of 5 testlets as part of the Early Fall assessment.*

Additional Questions?

Please contact:

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