DLM – Instructionally Embedded / Early Fall - 2021 Test Administration
Test Administration Dates: 9/13/2021 – 10/29/2021

1. Fall testing is planned to grade shift based on FY2021 grade, so Grade 4 students will test at Grade 3, etc. Will the DLM website be set up to accommodate this shift?
   - *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.*

2. DLM site classifies districts as EITHER Instructionally Embedded or Year End, but not both. If MSDE wants to use IE for fall and YE for spring, website will need to be adjusted. MSDE is a YE DLM partner.
   - *Maryland will remain a YE state. The DLM Maryland website (https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland) will stay the same and provide resources for the IE assessments under the Supplemental Resources tab. The IE assessments are always available for districts/schools to use each year.*

3. How will the website handle a student who is in grade 9 but supposed to take the grade 8 assessment?
   - *Districts/schools will be able to register and roster students at the grade they are planning to test the students after August 2, 2021. i.e. Districts/schools will register grade 9 students as a grade 8 student so that the IE testlets will be provided at the grade 8 level.*

4. Many teachers have never given the ELA and Math assessments using DLM or have never used DLM overall. What concerns, if any, does this reality raise?
   - *MSDE has been preparing for the use of the DLM – Mathematics and ELA 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 as well being 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 will certainly support both new and veteran staff in this process.*

5. Grade 9 students will be tested in fall 2021. This group is not normally part of the Maryland ALO testing program. Are there any special needs there? Ditto Grade 9 special ed teachers, if there are any who work exclusively with Grade 9.
   - *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.

6. The testing window is relatively short and affects all schools and all students, not just ALO. Does this raise any special concerns for ITSS and school based technology capacity or needs?
   - *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 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.*

7. How long will the assessment be per content area?
   - *Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of 5 EE's per content to work on, therefore they can spend as much time on each as they like. The Early Fall IE Assessment test window is 9/13/2021 to 10/29/2021.*

8. The Instructionally Embedded model calls on teachers to select the assessment items based on the state's predetermined choice of Essential Elements. Is this how MSDE expects this assessment to be conducted in fall 2021?
   - *Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of 5 EE's per content to work on. MSDE is not requiring any specific EE's to be tested.*

9. If teachers are expected to select the items (as described above), what if any guidance or training will MSDE offer on how they should schedule instruction and assessment during the testing window?
   - *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 Early Fall IE Assessment test window is 9/13/2021cto 10/29/2021.*

10. When will districts/schools be able to load teacher and student information at the website in preparation for fall testing?
    - *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.*

11. Will internal funds be available for 1) teacher training and assessment for BOTH fall and spring testing windows?
    - *MSDE will not be providing any additional funding for districts/schools. MSDE will be providing a new training built especially for the IE assessments on two separate training dates in August -2021, (LAC and LEA24) for all LEAs and another training for the Spring Test administration.*

12. Will internal funds be available for afterhours stipends for teacher workshops, office hours, or other supports?
    - *MSDE will not be providing additional training funding for Early Fall test administration. MSDE will be providing a brand new training built especially for the IE assessments on two separate days in August - 2021. Also, I am always available to answer any questions that any district/schools have regarding DLM.*

13. MSDE training for LACs is scheduled for August 25. Can we start training schools and STCs before then?
    - *Training materials are always 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.*
14. What additional training resources, if any, does MSDE expect to offer districts to prepare STCs and teachers to work with the instructionally embedded model?
    - *Training materials are always available on the DLM – Maryland website, therefore districts can start early in training 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.*
15. If no federal waiver is awarded for the science assessment: Instructionally Embedded Model at DLM is set up for ELA and Math, but not for Science. What are the implications for testing and training if the content areas require different information?
    - *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.*
16. Are teachers expected to use the Instructionally Embedded model throughout the year, for instruction? For assessment?
    - *The IE assessment have always been and will continue to be available for voluntary use by any district in Maryland. MSDE is requiring schools to administer the Early Fall DLM IE assessment in 2021. MSDE will also administer the DLM assessments in spring 2022 following the traditional Maryland testing calendar.*

Additional Questions?

Please contact:

Michael A. Plummer, Ed. M.
Program Manager for Assessment of Students with Disabilities
Division of Assessment, Accountability and Information Technology
Maryland State Department of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595
410 767-2498 (office)
410-333-0052 (fax)
michael.plummer@maryland.gov