



DLM[®] Field Test FAQ

This document explains how field testing will occur in the 2021–2022 school year for both Instructionally Embedded and Year-End model states.

What is a field test?

Field testing is one of the last stages of test development and is critical to the production of high-quality operational assessments. A field test testlet is administered to evaluate item quality for Essential Elements and the linkage levels being assessed at each grade level for English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science prior to being included in the operational testlet pool.

Do the results from field testing impact Individual Student Score Reports?

No.

When will field testing occur and in what grades and subjects?

Field tests for Instructionally Embedded model states are available for ELA and mathematics during both the fall and spring windows. Field tests for Year-End model states are available for ELA and mathematics only during the spring assessment window. Field tests in science are also only available during the spring assessment window.

Field testing will occur in grades 3–11 for ELA and mathematics and in elementary, middle, and high school grade bands for science. However, a field-test testlet is not available for every linkage level or Essential Element.

When will field-test testlets be accessible in the instructionally embedded assessment window and how long will they be available?

In the fall window, after completing the blueprint requirements for ELA and mathematics, the student may receive one field-test testlet in each subject. The field-test testlets will be available from that time until the close of the window.

When will field tests be accessible to students in Year-End model states?

During the spring assessment window, after a student completes all the required operational testlets in a subject, the student may receive a field-test testlet in each subject in which the student is rostered. The field test will be available until the window closes.

How many field tests will a student receive?

Students will be eligible to receive 0 or 1 field-test testlets in a subject in which the student is rostered. See Table 1 for a state that tests ELA, mathematics and science

Table 1

Number of field test testlets a student may receive by subject

STUDENT	ELA FTS	MATHEMATICS FTS	SCIENCE FTS
MAX	1	1	1
FRANNIE	0	1	0
TOM	0	0	0

How will teachers know if the testlet is a field test?

The naming convention for a field test signifies the only real difference between an operational testlet and a field-test testlet. Otherwise, field-test testlets look like operational testlets by design.

In the fall window for an Instructionally Embedded model state, the naming convention for field-test testlets for ELA and mathematics will begin with **FT FALL** as shown in the example below.

FT FALL Math F-BF.2 T 456

In the fall window for an Instructionally Embedded model state, the naming convention for field-test testlets for science will have an **R** towards the end of the testlet name as shown in the example below.

FALL SCI EL.Ess2-1 P **R**-789

In the spring window for both Instructionally Embedded and Year-End model states, the naming convention field-test testlets begin with **FT** as shown in the examples below.

FT SP ELA RL.3.1 IP 123

FT SP Math F-BF.2 T 456

FT SP SCI EL.ESS2-1 P 789

How will teachers know if a field-test testlet is available?

When the student has completed the blueprint requirements for their grade and subject, then the student may be selected to receive a single additional field-test testlet in a subject.

For a Year-End model state, Student Portal will have a message notifying the test administrator that a field-test testlet may become available after the last testlet is submitted. The Testlet Information Page (TIP) will be available in Test Management like the TIPS for all operational testlets.

For an Instructionally Embedded model state, the test administrator will need to check the Test Management tab to see if a field test is available and to access the TIP for the field-test testlet. See the Educator Portal User Guide for steps in accessing a field-test testlets and its TIP.

Does my student have to participate in field testing?

Participation is strongly encouraged in order to build the pool of available testlets for all students.

At what linkage level will the field-test testlets be delivered?

Depending on the state model, a field-test testlet will be delivered at the same linkage level, one above, or one level below the level at which the student took their operational testlets for the Essential Element.

Table 2 and Table 3 provide examples of the possible assignments for either the Instructionally Embedded model states or the Year-End model states.

Table 2

Instructionally Embedded Model States Field-Test Testlets Linkage Level Examples

Linkage Level of the Essential Element in operational testlet	Field Test Eligible Linkage Level
Proximal Precursor (PP)	DP or T
Target (T)	PP or S
Successor (S)	T
Distal Precursor (DP)	IP or PP
Initial Precursor (IP)	DP

Table 3

Year-End Model States Assigned Field-Test Testlet Linkage Level Examples

Linkage Level of the Essential Element in operational testlet	Field Test Eligible Linkage Level
Proximal Precursor (PP)	DP, PP, or T
Target (T)	PP, T, or S
Successor (S)	T or S
Distal Precursor (DP)	IP, DP, or PP
Initial Precursor (IP)	IP or DP

What if my student receives a field-test testlet that is too difficult?

When a student receives a field-test testlet at a linkage level more complex than where they are accustomed to testing, the test administrator can encourage the student to do their best. However, if the student seems too frustrated, the test administrator can allow the student to leave the questions blank and then submit the testlet.