DLM® Field Test FAQ

This document explains how field testing will occur in the 2019-2020 school year for Instructionally Embedded 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 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?
Field test testlets will be available to students ***after*** they have met the blueprint requirements in a subject. The field test testlets will be available from that time until the close of the window.

How many field tests will a student receive?
Students will be eligible to receive 0 or 1 field test testlets in each subject after completing blueprint requirements. See the example below for a state that tests ELA, mathematics and science:

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 connotes 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 field test naming convention includes an R as shown in the examples below.

FALL ELA RL.3.3 IP **R**-123
FALL Math F-BF.2 T **R**-456

In the spring window for Instructionally Embedded 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 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.

The charts below provide examples of the possible assignments for Instructionally Embedded model states.

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

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.