



MARYLAND DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS[®] (DLM[®]) TRAINING 2026 FAQ SHEET

Trainings conducted 1/12/2026 and 1/14/2026

Question and Answer Session conducted 2/5/2026

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1) What are the dates of Maryland’s 2026 DLM spring assessment window?

Maryland’s spring DLM alternate assessment window opens March 9, 2026, and closes May 15, 2026.

2) What are the technology requirements for DLM testing?

Technology requirements and installation requirements are found on the DLM website under the Kite[®] Suite link: <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/kite>. Also, technology personnel can use the [TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATIONS MANUAL](#).

3) How do I get an account in Kite Educator Portal?

If you are a new teacher, your District or Building (school) Test Coordinator will need to create an account for you in Educator Portal. Then, an activation email will be sent to you to create your password. If you are a test coordinator, you should contact MSDE to have an account added for you. If you have logged into Educator Portal before with the same email address, you can use the **Forgot Password** link on the Educator Portal home screen.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

4) What is the website to access the Kite Suite?

The DLM webpage is the main hub to access Kite Suite applications, as well as all manuals, guides, and other helpful documentation. Listed here are helpful links you can use to access the applications, as well as the DLM Professional Development website.

- DLM Professional Development: <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/professional-development>
- Kite Educator Portal: <https://educator.kiteaai.org>

- Kite Student Portal (installation requirements, manuals, and downloads): <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/kite>
- Kite Suite supported platforms, installation files, and instructions: <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/kite>
- Maryland DLM webpage: <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland>
- Required Test Administrator Training (in Kite Educator Portal)

IEP QUESTIONS

5) Are all students able to access the reader and scribe or do they need to have those on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) as accommodations?

Any accommodation that a student **requires** should be indicated on their IEP regardless of that student taking an assessment that reads to them. Accommodations are for instruction and assessment. If a student requires text read to them during instruction, then they should have verbatim reading marked on their IEP. If a student cannot complete writing tasks and express their ideas in writing, then they require a scribe, and it should be on their IEP. The IEP is meant to capture the needs of the student regardless of placement or assessment participation. At any time, a student could move to a state that does not use DLM. Therefore, the student’s IEP should identify what supports are required for instruction and assessment.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND WAIVERS

6) What grade levels are required to take the DLM assessment in Maryland?

Grade	English Language Arts (ELA)	Mathematics	Science
3	Yes	Yes	No
4	Yes	Yes	No
5	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Yes	Yes	No
7	Yes	Yes	No
8	Yes	Yes	Yes
9, 10	No	No	No

Grade	English Language Arts (ELA)	Mathematics	Science
11	Yes	Yes	Yes (roster students for biology course)
12	Optional	Optional	Optional

7) If a student did not test in Grade 11 and needs to test in Grade 12, how should they be enrolled?

Grade 12 students who need to test must be enrolled into Grade 11 to take the assessment.

8) Can you give me an example of a homebound student?

A homebound student is a student receiving home and hospital services in the home and is not able to access instruction or assessments in the school building.

9) What are the special circumstance codes available for students in Maryland?

Only MSDE can enter a special circumstance code for a student. Contact MSDE with the reason for your request to be applied to a student.

10) With the updates in Educator Portal for 2025–2026, can you highlight the changes made to the templates and extracts to make them consistent?

Many changes were made. One example is that a student’s name is now listed in order of first, middle, then last name instead of first, last, then middle or having the middle name not in the file. So, in every extract or upload template where a student’s name is listed, the order is now consistent. Use only upload template files for the 2025–2026 school year. Previous files will fail.

SCIENCE FIELD TESTS 2026 AND OPERATIONAL SCIENCE 2027

- All educators need to know about the revised and expanded science Essential Elements. Go to the Instructional Resources: [Instructional Resources for YE Model States | Dynamic Learning Maps](#). Then, go to the tab **Science - Spring 2027** for the revised and expanded set of science Essential Elements, which will be the basis for the testlets in the science field tests in spring 2026 and the operational science testlets in the spring 2027 DLM science alternate assessment. Operational science testlets in spring 2026 will test over the original Essential Elements that were previously used.

- The science operational assessments are only administered in Grades 5, 8, and 11 to students rostered to science in those grades.
- The science field test testlets are only administered to students rostered to science in Grades 5, 8, and 11.
- **All** students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 who are rostered to science will be delivered two sets of field tests. Each set contains two back-to-back testlets with a submit button at the end of the set.
- One Testlet Information Page (TIP) is provided for each set of field test testlets, which will cover both testlets in the set.
- Field tests can be delivered at the beginning of the window, at the end of the window, or any time during the window at the test administrator’s discretion.
- Science field test testlets will be in Student Portal exactly like field tests for ELA and mathematics have been in all previous years.
- The naming conventions for field tests begin with “FT.” Also, the TIP will display the testlet name with “FT” at the beginning of the field test testlet name.

11) Were Special Education Coordinators told about what these changes are for 2026–2027?

Special Education Directors and Leadership were made aware of new science Essential Elements at the end of last year, but there has not been comprehensive professional learning on the new standards to date.

12) How many total testlets will be required for science?

Grade	# of Operational Science Testlets	# of Science Field Test Testlets	Combined total of science testlets
5	9	Two sets with two field tests in each set	13
8	9	Two sets with two field tests in each set	13
11	10	Two sets with two field tests in each set	14

13) Will the DLM Test Administrator Extract show whether the field tests were completed?

Yes. Column W displays the number of field tests completed per student, per subject.

14) Is there a penalty if a student doesn't or can't complete all field tests?

All students should complete the field tests that are assigned to them. If a team is concerned that a student cannot complete all field tests, it is best that they work with their special education department to support student engagement throughout the testing window to ensure all field tests are completed.

15) Should the field tests be given the same way throughout the state for consistency and standardization?

Yes. All students enrolled and rostered in science (Grades 5, 8, and 11) in every Maryland district and school receive the same standard number of science operational testlets for their grade and the same standard number of science field test testlets. All test administrators are provided with the standardized TIPs for each set of testlets and the same standardized directions for assessment administration for operational and field test testlets.

16) If we have a chronically absent student, will we need to prioritize the operational science testlets?

Due to the length of the DLM testing window, enough time should be available to complete both the testlets and the field tests in each content area.

SCORING AND REPORTING

17) What score reports can teachers see?

Teachers can access reports for students who are rostered to them for the 2025–2026 school year, but only for the subjects to which the student is rostered to that teacher. Teachers cannot access score reports for students previously rostered to them.

18) Are the Individual Student Score Reports (ISRs) available in any other language?

DLM has provided a link to student score report Spanish translation templates for Year-End model states on the [Maryland DLM webpage](#).

19) Will MSDE be sending printed ISRs?

Yes. Local education agencies (LEAs) and LEA 24s will receive printed ISRs.

REQUIRED TEST ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING

20) How do we get to the DLM Required Test Administrator Training?

The DLM Required Test Administrator Training is found in Kite Educator Portal under the Training tab. The Teacher role is automatically enrolled in the training. Other roles may also take the training.

21) Are teachers who have never administered DLM before considered new teachers?

Yes. Any test administrator who has not administered DLM testlets before or did not complete the DLM Required Test Administrator Training the previous assessment year will automatically be enrolled into the DLM Required Test Administrator Training for new teachers.

22) The training slide showed that new test administrators must take four modules. In the past, we have always had more than four modules needed to earn our certificate.

The DLM Required Test Administrator Training for new test administrators is comprised of four modules. In addition to those four modules, Maryland requires new teachers to take the following two DLM Professional Development modules:

- Who are Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities?
- Individual Education Programs Linked to the DLM Essential Elements

Returning test administrators take only one DLM Required Test Administrator Training module, and no additional DLM Professional Development modules are required.

23) Are District and Building (school) Test Coordinators required to take the DLM Required Test Administrator Training?

Best practice is for District and Building Test Coordinators to take the DLM Required Test Administrator Training for new teachers so they are familiar with the training and can answer questions from the test administrators. Building Test Coordinators can be assigned the Teacher role to be able to access the modules. If the Training tab is not available in Educator Portal, contact MSDE for help.

DATA MANAGEMENT

24) When can we begin enrolling students in Educator Portal?

You can begin enrolling and rostering students in Educator Portal at any time before the DLM assessment window opens. Data managers should continuously monitor student data throughout the duration of the assessment window and make updates as needed, but updates should be made before the window closes on May 15, 2026.

25) One of my schools has an incorrect ID number or is missing from the State Organizational Table. How can I correct this?

Contact MSDE for assistance if you find an incorrect or missing school number in the State Organizational Table for Maryland.

26) Who are considered data managers? What do they do?

Data managers primarily maintain educator, student, and roster data in Educator Portal. Typically, the person responsible for data management is assigned the role of District Test Coordinator in Educator Portal. The [DATA MANAGEMENT MANUAL](#), available on Maryland's DLM webpage, is an excellent resource for data managers to use while managing data.

27) Who do we contact for student transfers?

Staff with district-level permissions in Educator Portal can transfer students between schools within the same district. To transfer a student to a school outside of the district, contact MSDE.

28) Where do I find the various student templates in Kite Educator Portal?

Templates for uploads can be found on Maryland's DLM webpage, <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/maryland>. Filter using the Data Manager role, and in the Resource Category, select **District Staff Resources**. Also, on the various Upload tabs in Educator Portal, the templates can be accessed by hovering over the question mark.

29) For the school entry date, should we be using the date the student entered our specific school?

Yes. Enter the date that student enrolled in the school.

30) Are we supposed to use the new #10 Middle Eastern or North African race code this year?

Maryland is not yet officially collecting the new race codes. Please maintain the use of existing codes at this time. For questions about this, contact MSDE.

31) Where does the rostering list come from? Does MSDE provide it, or does it come from our student data person?

The LEA Accountability office typically provides the list, but this may be done in conjunction with the special education department as well.

32) On the CSV file for rostering, do we put the grade level the student should be in under the heading “Course?”

No. The course field in the roster is only to be used to enter **BIO** for Grade 11 students assessed in end-of-instruction biology. Only those students receive a biology testlet.

When rostering students for science, all students in the same school in Grades 5, 8, and 11 can be on a single upload template file, or each grade can have a separate upload template file, depending on the state’s preference. Only Grade 11 students can have **BIO** in the course field on a roster upload template file or the upload will fail.

TEST ADMINISTRATION

33) Is there an updated version of Kite Student Portal that needs to be installed this year?

Student Portal 11.0 must be used again for the 2025–2026 school year. Any device used to administer the DLM assessment must have Kite Client version 11.0. Visit the [Kite Suite](#) page for supported platform information, installation files, and installation instructions.

34) Since only the app version of Student Portal must be used for testing, will it update automatically?

No. The Student Portal app will not update automatically. To update Student Portal to 11.0, go to the [Kite Suite](#) page for installation instructions.

35) What is Maryland’s policy for using the Exit Does Not Save button in Student Portal?

Although Maryland allows test administrators to use the **Exit Does Not Save** button, test administrators must document each use of the button.

36) Who is considered a test administrator?

Test administrators (e.g., educators, examiners, proctors, or teachers) prepare students for assessment and administer the assessments to them. Any person administering DLM assessments is required to complete the DLM Required Test Administrator Training. The test administrator to whom the student is rostered is the one required to administer the assessments to the student. The [TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL for Year-End Model States](#) is available as a resource for testlet administration.

37) How many testlets are required per grade and subject?

Refer to the [TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL](#), Appendix A: Number of Testlets for Spring Assessment, for information on the required number of testlets per grade and subject.

38) After completing a testlet, how long does it take for the next testlet to become available?

About 15 minutes. Only one testlet per rostered subject is available at one time in Student Portal. After the student submits the first testlet in a subject, the Kite system evaluates the student's responses, and then the next testlet in that subject becomes available in Student Portal, usually within about 15 minutes.

39) When the testlet is being generated during the 15-minute time span, can we begin assessing another student?

Yes, another student can be assessed, or the same student can be assessed on a different subject during that time. However, breaks are also encouraged for students and can be given during this 15-minute time span as well.

40) Will there be field tests for ELA and mathematics in spring 2026, and does Maryland require field tests to be completed?

Yes. During the spring 2026 DLM assessments, ELA and mathematics may also have one field test in each subject. Maryland requires that students complete any ELA and mathematics field test testlets. Field tests in each subject are named with "FT" at the beginning of the testlet name.

41) How do test administrators know when they are done with each subject's assessment?

DLM provides three ways for a test administrator to know when testing in a subject is completed.

- **In Educator Portal:** On the Test Management screen, the Test Progress column allows the test administrator to monitor a student’s testing progress for each subject. For each test ticket, the Test Progress column will indicate the number of testlets that are available (e.g., Testlet 3 of 9).
- **In Kite Student Portal:** Testing progress is indicated in the same way (e.g., Testlet 3 of 9).
- **In the data extracts:** All roles have access to the DLM Test Administration Monitoring extract. This extract indicates in column U the number of testlets that were completed per subject, per student, and column V indicates the number of testlets required in that subject.

Refer to the [TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL](#) for more information on monitoring student testing progress.

42) Are writing sample uploads optional, or are we required to upload them?

The requirement to upload writing samples began with the 2023–2024 school year.

Uploading writing samples is required for all students who take the writing testlet where a writing product is expected. Refer to the [TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL](#) in the Teacher-Administered Writing Testlets section for information about which students are to produce a writing product that must be uploaded.

Only the student’s test administrator will have the tab for uploading the writing samples, which must be uploaded before the testing window closes.

43) Why are the text and picture for each screen in a testlet in the top left corner of the page instead of using more of the screen? Can this be fixed?

Some students need magnification of 2, 3, 4, or 5 times greater than what is on the screen. Having the placement of the text and picture in the upper left allows for the magnification to spread across the screen to be more easily viewed for the students needing the additional enlargement.

44) Are practice tests just for teachers or for students as well?

The [Guide to Practice Activities and Released Testlets](#) can be used to familiarize both teachers and students with testlets by using demo logins for practice testlets.

45) In previous years, we were told that the teacher survey had to be completed for every student. Now it seems we only have to complete it for one student. Can you clarify?

The teacher survey should be completed for all students; however, the sections about the teacher's experience only need to be completed once (Block A and C). Block B contains spiraled questions, so if the teacher receives multiple teacher surveys, the questions may be different in Block B.

46) How should we test homebound or hospitalized students?

Students who are receiving instruction should also be assessed. Please contact MSDE for questions about testing individual students who are homebound or hospitalized.

47) Sometimes the pictures in the stories do not match the words in the story (e.g., a sentence is about staying inside when it is raining outside, but the picture is just the inside of the house and not the person staying inside). This happens with many texts, and our teachers have asked about this before.

The primary goal with the images that accompany ELA texts is to ensure that students can make sense of the text without using only the images (i.e., as a substitute for reading the texts) and that they answer the items from the text without using only the images. So, the fact that some images do not represent the texts exactly is intentional so that the students' ability to demonstrate the ELA skills described in the Essential Elements is not undermined.

48) Do we need to get permission to test outside of hours?

Permission is not required to test outside of hours. However, the Building Test Coordinator should keep a log of any testing outside of hours and note the reason for testing outside of hours.

49) Is the Short Duration Testing Dashboard available to Building Test Coordinators?

No. The Kite system setting for the Dashboard permits access only for the state assessment administrators and District Test Coordinators. To help inform Building Test Coordinators, a new column was added as the first column in the Short Duration Testing and the After Hours Testing reports. That first column has the students' SSID. Since MSDE permits a student's SSID to be electronically transmitted, the spreadsheet can be downloaded, all student personally identifiable information (PII) data can be deleted, and the spreadsheet can be emailed to the applicable Building Test Coordinators.

50) For the Short Duration Testing report, when does timing begin?

The time begins as soon as the testlet is opened.

51) Does DLM have a report that shows correct/incorrect answers?

No. DLM does not have a report that shows correct/incorrect answers. However, the Short Duration Testing report does have a column that displays the number of items that were in the testlet and the column beside it displays whether all items were answered correctly—Yes or No.

52) Do all testlets have an engagement activity?

Yes. All teacher-administered and computer-delivered testlets in all subjects begin with an engagement activity.

53) Can the District User role have access to the Dashboard reports? I need more hands on deck to help with the monitoring.

See the answer to #49.

54) Can we have more than one District Test Coordinator per district?

Yes. MSDE allows Maryland districts to have more than one District Test Coordinator per district. Contact MSDE to get additional District Test Coordinator roles added.

55) Are we required to add testing schedules in iTempra?

Yes. Testing schedules must be added in iTempra.

56) What are the dates for uploading students and rosters, submitting the First Contact Surveys and Personal Needs and Preferences (PNP) Profiles, and adding testing schedules in iTempra?

Important DLM Dates:

- DLM Spring Assessment window: 3/9/2026–5/15/2026
- 1/12/2026—Virtual DLM training for LEA facilitators
- 1/14/2026—Virtual training for LEA 24 facilitators
- 1/30/2026—DLM Required Test Administrator Training completed
- 2/5/2026—Maryland DLM Test Coordinator Q&A Session (see flyer)
- 2/20/2026—All students rostered
- 2/27/2026—First Contact Surveys submitted and PNP Profiles saved
- 2/27/2026—Testing schedules added to iTempra

57) If a student has assessment accommodations on their IEP that say “Human Reader available in English and in Spanish,” does this mean we are required to assign their test administrator as someone who speaks both languages?

Per the Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, and Accommodations Manual (MAAAM): “TAs providing this accommodation should ideally be literate and fluent in English and in Spanish, or may be assisted by an interpreter, if available, since test administration directions will be read to the student in Spanish.”

58) Can we get notification of when the recording and PowerPoint are available?

The recorded presentation, editable PowerPoint, and transcript of the 2026 Maryland Test Coordinator Training were posted to the [DLM Maryland webpage](#) on January 14, 2026.

The Frequently Asked Questions document is from the January training sessions chat and the Maryland DLM Test Coordinator Q&A Session. It will be posted by the end of February.