



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

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*Responses to DLM questions from the 5/19/2021 LAC meeting along with questions from other sources.*

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1. Do teachers have to complete full module now and then the returning module next year? Doesn't that increase the training time?
  - *MSDE is **ONLY** requiring returning teachers to complete the **one** mandatory training module for the Early Fall Assessments. All **NEW** teachers (or those who did not complete all the training in 2021) will have to complete **ALL** training modules. In order to not increase time spent doing extra training modules for the Early Fall Assessments it is suggested that **ALL** current teachers complete all the training that was required for 2020-21.*
2. Can we have DLM send us a report of completed training for active users? The report I ran in DLM is saying it is not completed when I know folks did them.
  - *The **Training Status** extract in Educator Portal is the only available report. If there are discrepancies, please contact the DLM Service Desk for troubleshooting.*
    - ***SERVICE DESK / 1-855-277-9751***
    - *[DLM-support@ku.edu](mailto:DLM-support@ku.edu)*
    - *Hours: 6:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. CST, M–F*
3. Our teachers have never used DLM for Reading and Math and particularly the writing portion.
  - *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.*

4. I'd prefer to have the trainings the same time as MCAP as opposed to waiting until the end of August.
  - *MSDE looked into changing the training dates, but **unfortunately**, if we move the current training to an earlier date DLM would not be able to give a live demonstration of the Instructional Planner, which is the main reason for the training. DLM would also not be able to highlight any changes in any of the KITE products that steer the KITE Suite and the DLM website.*
5. Can any teacher who did not teach 5, 8 or 11 grades administer a DLM assessment?
  - *All personnel involved in testing shall be employees of the local school system, be trained for their role, meet the requirements of their role and sign a Department approved Test Administration and Certification of Training Form. Districts/schools **must** follow **COMAR13.A.03.04.04 (b)** Must possess a valid Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) certificate for professional school staff to administer any multistate assessment consortium testing.*
6. Can the window be extended to adjust for the late training g date?
  - *MSDE **cannot** extend the DLM testing window. The test admiration window has been extended an additional week already to compensate for the DLM one-on-one test administration requirements.*
7. Can we get the date that the training site rolls over? I want to release to teachers to complete full training, but only after it starts for next school year.
  - *Districts/schools have up until **7/23/2021** to save any information from the Educator Portal. The DLM system will start its annual reset on **7/24/2021**. All site functions open back up again after **8/2/201**.*
8. You can't compare this to administering the other MCAP assessments either. Much less intensive training for teachers, teachers don't need to do those one-on-one, etc.
  - *Districts/schools will be asked to test both MCAP and DLM generally during the same period 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. MSDE would suggest all teachers complete the training they had scheduled for the 2020-21 assessments so they will only have to do the one mandatory training module for Early Fall.*
9. I won't have teacher lists until start of school at the earliest.
  - *Districts/schools can upload in either bulk or individually teacher/student information throughout the test administration window at any time.*
10. Can we have one FAQ document instead of multiple by county?
  - *I have added specific questions and answers to this Q&A document that I have received from other entities.*

## Questions from other sources:

11. 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.*
12. 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.*
13. 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.*
14. 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.*
15. 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.*

16. 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 period 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.*
17. How long will the assessment be per content area?
- *Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of five 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.*
18. 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 five EE's per content to work on. MSDE is not requiring any specific EE has to be tested.*
19. 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 has to be tested. Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of five 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 9/13/2021 to 10/29/2021.*
20. 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.*
21. 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.*
22. Will internal funds be available for afterhour's 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. In addition, I am always available to answer any questions that any district/schools have regarding DLM.*

23. 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.*
24. 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.*
25. 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 nine 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 five testlets as part of the Early Fall assessment.*
26. Are teachers expected to use the Instructionally Embedded model throughout the year, for instruction? For assessment?
- *The IE assessments 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.*
27. Providing the information in a timely fashion will be very important.
- *MSDE is always committed to responding to questions in a timely manner.*
28. 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.*
29. 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.*
30. Grade 9 students are not usually part of the testing group. This is a completely new set of teachers who will need to be trained, on not only the system but also 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.*
31. 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.*
32. 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 is 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.*
33. 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.*
34. 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.*
35. 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 period. To complicate issues, all students in Grades 4 through nine will also be assessing during the same period.
- *Districts/schools will be asked to test both MCAP and DLM generally during the same period 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.*

36. 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 were 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.*
37. 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 five 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.*
38. On average, what should we plan on for testing time for each content area?
- *MSDE is not requiring any specific EE's to be tested. Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of five 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.*
39. 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.
- *MSDE is not requiring any specific EE's to be tested. Teachers will have the ability to independently pick a minimum of five 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.*
40. 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 nine 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 five testlets as part of the Early Fall assessment.*

41. Will current 10th graders take the instructionally embedded assessment in fall 2021 as 11th graders, as well as the regular ALT test spring 2022 or just take spring 2022 Alt assessment as 11th graders?
- *Current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students would not take the Instructionally Embedded Assessments in fall 2021. These students would take the spring 2022 assessments.*
42. Will current 11th graders take the instructionally embedded assessment in fall 2021 as 12th graders, as well as the regular ALT test in spring 2022 or just the instr. emb. test in fall 2021?
- *Current 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the Instructionally Embedded Assessment in fall 2021 as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader. Since these students would then have tested at a High School grade level, they would have fulfilled ALL test obligations for MSDE.*
43. Do all students who are currently in grades 3 - 7 take the instr.-embedded assessment in fall 2021 and the regular test in spring 2022?
- *Current 3-7<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the Instructionally Embedded Assessments for the grade they were in during the 2020-2021 school year in fall 2021 and then take the DLM assessment in spring 2022 for their current grade.*
44. Do current 8th graders have to take the instr. embedded in fall 2021 as 9th graders to make up for this year as well as the regular ALT in spring 2022 as 9th graders?
- *Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the Instructionally Embedded Assessment in fall 2021 as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Depending how your district/school labels students in a High School grade (i.e. grade, 9, 10, 11, 12) would depend if they take part in the spring 2021-22 assessment as a high school student.*

## Questions from other sources added after 5/28/2021:

45. I have several students that have now qualified to participate in ALT from within our county and they did not complete any assessments this school year and students from out of state that are alt. eligible. I was told they would be participating in the instructionally embedded assessments since this information is supposed to support teachers with data for instruction. They would need to be added to the DLM database if this is correct.
- *The students (coming from outside your state) may or may not have to depending if they took any assessments in 2020-2021. If they took assessments then, NO. If they did not take any assessments then, YES or possibly\*. I would look at their student file and see if that information is available. \*If it were not available then the county would have to make a determination on which path they want to go down.*
46. We are considering the use of instructionally embedded assessments (DLM) as a measure of student growth over time.
1. Do we as a district or as an assessor assign the testlets to the students?
  2. Can we assign an IEA more than once over the course of the year?
    - *1 - The answer is yes. The teacher can pick whatever EE's to work from and as many\* to work from. \*Except in the Early Fall 2021 test administration - MSDE is only requiring a minimum of five (5) from each content area.*
    - *2 - In a typical Instructionally Embedded administration - yes, but in the Early Fall 2021 test administration MSDE is ONLY requiring a minimum of five (5) from each content area, but they have to be different.*



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## **Additional Questions about DLM?**

Please contact:

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