



Maryland Social Studies Field Test Fact Sheet

Overview

This fact sheet is intended to help Test Coordinators and Test Administrators understand participation requirements, timing, and testlet administration expectations for the Maryland alternate social studies field test.

The Maryland alternate social studies field test is required for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 8, 9, and 10 during the spring 2027 testing window. Eligible students in Grades 11 and 12 may participate, but participation is optional. Students will complete field testlets through the Dynamic Learning Maps® assessment system using Kite® Student Portal. The field test window is March 9, 2027, through May 15, 2027.

Key Field Test Details

- The field test is required for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 8, 9, and 10. Participation is optional for eligible students in Grades 11 and 12.
- The field test window is March 9, 2027, through May 15, 2027.
- Students must be enrolled and rostered to social studies in Kite Educator Portal to be included.
- Each participating student will receive five field testlets.
- There are five Essential Elements for Grade 8 and seven Essential Elements for Grades 9 through 12.
- Each field testlet tests one Essential Element at one linkage level: Initial, Precursor, or Target.
- Field test tickets and Testlet Information Pages, or TIPs, will be available in Test Management.
- Field test results do not impact Individual Student Score Reports.

Participation and Timing

What is the Maryland social studies field test?

Field testing helps support the development of Maryland alternate social studies assessments by allowing students to complete testlets for Essential Elements that are being developed for future administrations. The Maryland alternate social studies field test includes five Essential Elements for Grade 8 and seven Essential Elements for Grades 9 through 12, with three linkage levels: Initial, Precursor, and Target.

Which students may participate?

The field test is required for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 8, 9, and 10 who are enrolled and rostered to social studies. Students in Grades 11 and 12 who are enrolled and rostered to social studies may also participate, but participation is optional.

When will field testing occur?

The field test window is March 9, 2027, through May 15, 2027.

Field Testlets

How many field testlets will a student receive?

Each participating student will receive five field testlets.

What will Test Administrators see in Test Management?

All Maryland social studies testlets are field tests for the spring 2027 administration. Test Administrators and Test Coordinators will see assigned field testlets in Test Management, along with test tickets and TIPs needed for administration in Kite Student Portal.

What item types may students see?

Students may see multiple-choice, multiple choice-multi-select, and select-text items. A testlet may include up to five items.

Administration Guidance

Test Administrator Account Access

Before field testing begins, Test Coordinators should confirm that Test Administrators administering the social studies field test have active Kite Educator Portal accounts. Test Administrators without access should contact their Test Coordinator.

Do field test results impact Individual Student Score Reports?

No. Field test results are used for assessment development purposes, so students will not receive a social studies score report for 2026–2027.

Is participation required?

Yes, the field test is required for students in Grades 8, 9, and 10. Participation is optional for students in Grades 11 and 12, even when they are enrolled and rostered to social studies in Kite Educator Portal. Participation is strongly encouraged because field testing helps build the pool of available testlets for future administrations.

What if the field test form is difficult for a student?

Test Administrators should encourage students to do their best. If a field test form seems too difficult, Test Administrators should use standard administration guidance to support the student during testing.

Administration Reminders

Test Coordinator Reminders

- Confirm eligible students are enrolled and rostered to social studies in Kite Educator Portal.
- Confirm Test Administrators have active Kite Educator Portal accounts.
- Make sure Test Administrators know where to find assigned field testlets, test tickets, and TIPs in Test Management.
- Make sure Test Administrators know how to administer testlets using Student Portal.

Test Administrator Reminders

- Confirm Kite Student Portal is installed on student testing devices.
- Review assigned field testlets, test tickets, and TIPs before administration.
- Administer assigned field testlets using standard assessment procedures.
- Encourage students to do their best.

Assessment Resources

The resources below can help Test Administrators and Test Coordinators prepare for enrollment, rostering, accessibility, accommodations, and testlet administration before the field test window opens.

Visit the [Maryland Dynamic Learning Maps webpage](#) for manuals, training materials, and guidance that may help Test Administrators and Test Coordinators prepare for testlet administration.

- For enrollment and rostering guidance, review the DATA MANAGEMENT MANUAL.
- For assessment preparation and administration guidance, review the ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR MANUAL for Year-End Model States and Maryland training materials.
- For accessibility and accommodations guidance, review the ACCESSIBILITY MANUAL and the Assessment, Accessibility, & Accommodations Policy Manual for Maryland.
- [Download Kite Student Portal](#) for testlet administration.