

PASA DLM Science Instruction and Assessment Updates - Frequently Asked Questions



Why have the PASA DLM Science Essential Elements (EEs) been revised?

The original DLM Science EEs were developed in collaboration with a subset of states within the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) consortium. The newly revised PASA DLM Science EEs were expanded to be more representational of the NGSS content.

Are the PASA DLM Science EEs aligned to the PA STEELS Standards?

A crosswalk between the PA STEELS Standards and PASA DLM EEs has been completed and reflects alignment. A resource similar to the English Language Arts and mathematics crosswalks will be made available.

When will the revised PASA DLM Science EEs be available?

PA will make available the revised PASA DLM Science EEs during the 2024-2025 school year. They will be posted to the PA DLM website.

When can schools begin to use the revised PASA DLM Science EEs?

Schools may begin educating using the revised PASA DLM Science EEs as soon as they have been released. School leaders should provide training for teachers to understand the revised content and implications for curriculum alignment and instruction.

What instructional resources are available to support implementation of the revised PASA DLM Science EEs?

- [DLM Professional Development for Science](#) – an introduction to the science standards framework
- [Existing Currently Tested Science PASA DLM EEs](#) (revised content to be released 2024-2025)
- [Instructional Activities for Existing Science PASA DLM EEs](#)
- [Exemplar Lesson Plans Grades 3-5](#) (bottom of 5E Science Education for Special Educators webpage)

*DLM is currently developing instructional science mini-maps. Upon completion, these will be available on the PA DLM website like all other mini-maps.

What changes are expected to the 2024-2025 Science PASA DLM assessment?

Administration of the elementary science assessment for the PSSA and PASA will transition from grade 4 to grade 5 this year. PASA-eligible students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be assessed on the *existing* EEs in 2024-2025.

What changes are expected to the 2025-2026 Science PASA DLM assessment?

Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will be assessed on the *existing* EEs in 2025-2026. Field testing testlets aligned to the revised EEs will be included in the Spring 2026 testing window.

What changes are expected to the 2026-2027 Science PASA DLM assessment?

Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will be assessed on the *revised* EEs in 2026-2027. This will be the first operational Science PASA DLM with revised content. Field testing testlets will also be included with the operational testing window in order to expand the pool of science items.