

All students
can meet high
standards.



Dynamic Learning
Maps alternate
assessments help
parents and educators
establish high
academic expectations
for students with the
most significant
cognitive disabilities.

Additional Information about the DeSSA-Alt is provided through the Dynamic Learning Maps website. Please visit <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/delaware/>.

If you have questions, please contact your school Special Education Coordinator in your school/district.

Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessments Parent Brochure

Delaware's assessment for
students with the most significant
cognitive disabilities





Instruction Linked with Assessment

Throughout the school year, your child will be provided academic instruction in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. In the spring, your child will test on the standards learned using the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment.

Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment

The DLM Alternate Assessment System supports student learning and measures what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. The maps go beyond traditional progressions to include multiple and alternate pathways by which students may develop content knowledge.

Delaware's spring assessment window is March 15, 2021 – May 21, 2021

Assessment Design

The DLM system is designed to map a student's learning. Assessments are delivered in testlets based on Delaware content standards with each testlet containing three to nine items. Students receive between five and ten testlets, depending on subject and grade.

Sample testlets are available at: <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/about/s/releasedtestlets>

Essential Elements

The Essential Elements (EEs) are specific statements of knowledge and skills that link the academic expectations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to grade-level standards. The EEs specify academic targets, while the learning map clarifies how students can reach the specified standard.

For more information about EEs, visit: <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/about/model/essential-elements.s.org/delaware/>.

Assessment Results

Test results support interpretations about what students know and can do. The scoring system works differently from traditional alternate assessments. The system uses the student's performance during the spring testing window and compares it to the learning map to determine the student's level of mastery of the EEs. There are no raw scores, percentages, or scale scores. Your child's results are completely confidential.

Test Administration Time

The approximate length of time for testing may vary depending on the subject, the grade-level, and each student's individual needs. The materials used in the testlets can be adapted to meet your child's needs. Although the testlets must be completed during our state's testing window, your child may complete the testlets over a period of several days during that window. Anticipated testing times (approx.. 5 testlets each):

- ELA 70–90 minutes
- Math 35–60 minutes
- Science 45–135 minutes