



## Maryland - Early Fall DLM Instructionally Embedded Assessment CLARIFICATION #2:

MSDE received several questions regarding which linkage level should be used when administering the Early Fall Instructionally Embedded assessment.

We are providing this clarification on the selection of the correct linkage level.

Since the skills being tested come from the student’s grade in 2020–21 the administration of each testlet must **BEGIN** at the **Target** linkage level.

### Steps for administering the required 5 Essential Elements per content area:

1. Select the 5 Essential Elements for each required content area.
2. Test administrators must first select and administer the **Target** linkage level testlet for each Essential Element chosen. The **Target** level must be administered regardless of the student’s suggested linkage level. **See example below.**

In this example, the Target linkage level has been assigned for 5 Essential Elements for HS English language arts.

Essential Element	Initial Precursor	Distal Precursor	Proximal Precursor	Target	Successor
<b>ELA.EE.RL.9-10.1</b> Determine which citations demonstrate what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Identify concrete details in a familiar story	Answer questions by referring to a text	Cite textual evidence for explicit information in text	Discriminate between explicit and implicit citations Testlet Assigned 09/02	Determine a narrative's explicit meaning
<b>ELA.EE.RL.9-10.2</b> Recount events related to the theme or central idea, including details about character and setting.	Identify the forward sequence in a familiar routine	Identify main idea	Identify details related to the theme of a story	Recount events contributing to the theme using details Testlet Assigned 09/02	Recount main events related to the theme
<b>ELA.EE.RL.9-10.4</b> Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including idioms, analogies, and figures of speech.	Identify descriptive words	Identify the words or phrases to complete a literal sentence	Determine the meaning of idioms and figures of speech	Determine the meaning of words and phrases Testlet Assigned 09/02	Determine the meaning and impact of words and phrases
<b>ELA.EE.RL.9-10.1</b> Determine which citations demonstrate what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially.	Identify concrete details in a familiar informational text	Identify concrete details in an informational text	Cite textual evidence for inferred information	Discriminate between citations for explicit and inferred information Testlet Complete 09/02	Cite evidence for a text's specific meaning
<b>ELA.EE.RL.9-10.2</b> Determine the central idea of the text and select details to support it.	Identify concrete details in an informational text	Identify details relevant to the topic of text	Summarize a familiar informational text	Identify key details supporting the central idea Testlet Complete 09/02	Support implicit and explicit meaning with details

- If the **Target** linkage level testlet is mastered by the student, the test administrator should assign and administer the **Successor** level testlet for the same **Essential Element**. If the Target level testlet is **not** mastered, then move on to administer the **Target** linkage level testlet for the next Essential Element.

Distal Precursor	Proximal Precursor	Target	Successor	The student has not mastered the Target level for this Essential Element and does not need to take the Successor linkage level testlet.
Identify concrete details in an informational text	Cite textual evidence for inferred information	Discriminate between citations for explicit and inferred information ✓ Testlet Complete 09/02 ✕	Cite evidence for a text's specific meaning	
Distal Precursor	Proximal Precursor	Target	Successor	The student has mastered the Target level for this Essential Element and has been assigned the Successor linkage level testlet.
Identify details relevant to the topic of text	Summarize a familiar informational text	Identify key details supporting the central idea ✓ Testlet Complete 09/02 ★	Support implicit and explicit meaning with details 🚩 Testlet Assigned 09/02	
Distal Precursor	Proximal Precursor	Target	Successor	

- Repeat** step 3 for all content areas **until** the student has **completed** all required testlets.