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.

![Example Table](image-url)
3. 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.

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