



Iowa's AYP Alternate Assessments

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

English Language Arts, Mathematics & Science

Policy & Guidance
2015-2016

Learning Goal

Iowa Department
of Education

Policy &
Guidance

- Understand the State of Iowa's Policy and Requirements for DLM Alternate Assessment Administration

Success Criteria

Iowa Department
of Education
Policy &
Guidance

- Legal Requirements
- Eligibility Guidelines
- Authorized Test Administrators
- State of Iowa's DLM Test Blueprints, Timelines & Requirements

Legal Requirements

- The Alternate Assessment is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Legal Requirements

- Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards are assessments used to evaluate the academic performance of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities
- Tested grades are
 - ELA: Grades 3-8, 10 and 11
 - Math: Grades 3-8, 10 and 11
 - Science: Grades 5, 8, and 11
- Some Districts choose to assess students in 9th grade in order to meet Chapter 12 Requirements
 - Please contact your district administration to determine off AYP grade level testing participation in DLM

Legal Requirements

- National data on who participates in Alternate Assessments show that participating students are those with the most severe intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities
 - Students who represent fewer than 1 percent of all students, or less than 10 percent of all students who have disabilities

Legal Requirements

- The figure of 1 percent is the regulatory cap on the percent of students whose scores on Alternate Assessment can be treated as proficient for purposes of school accountability

Legal Requirements

- More students can participate in the Alternate Assessment than 1 percent, but the cap on how the scores are used in accountability is meant to avoid inappropriate inclusion of many students in a lower achievement expectation than evidence suggests is warranted

Eligibility Guidelines

- The criteria for participation in Iowa's Alternate Assessments reflect the pervasive nature of a significant cognitive disability
- Students taking the Iowa's Alternate Assessments require extensive, direct instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains
- They receive instruction on the Iowa Core Essential Elements which are aligned to the Iowa Core Standards but are of reduced breadth, depth, and complexity

Eligibility Guidelines

- IEP teams must select the alternate assessment as the only option for all subject content areas assessed
- Students who participate in Iowa's Alternate Assessments will not participate in Iowa Assessments
- Participation guidelines are programmed into the State Web IEP

Eligibility Guidelines

- It is recommend IEP Teams view the DLM Self Directed Online Module Who are Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities?
 - https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8i6PEuluLU4zRe5

Authorized Test Administrators

- Only teachers who have completed the DLM required assessment administration training may administer the DLM Alternate Assessments
 - All modules of the required assessment training and receive a security certificate
- Educational Associates/Paraprofessionals are not authorized to administer the assessment
 - Violation of Iowa Teaching Standards
- Homebound instructors and long term subs, who administer the DLM Assessment, must also complete the required assessment training and receive a security agreement

State of Iowa's DLM Alternate Assessments Timelines & Requirements

- The DLM English Language Arts and Math Alternate Assessments are year-long instructionally embedded assessments that include a year-end summative assessment
 - Includes three assessment windows- Fall, Winter, and Spring
- The DLM Science Alternate Assessments is a year-end assessment with one spring assessment window
- The State of Iowa's Timelines & Requirements document outlines the dates of each assessment windows and the number of EEs assessed in each assessment window

State of Iowa's DLM Assessments Timelines & Requirements

- Teachers must assess the required number of EEs during each assessment window unless granted exception by the Iowa Department of Education
- IEP teams must request this exception from Emily Thatcher Emily.thatcher@iowa.gov or students will be considered an exclusion

State of Iowa's DLM ELA & Math Alternate Assessments

- The State of Iowa determine the Essential Elements (EE) tested
- The State of Iowa's DLM ELA, Math, and Science Test Blueprints list the tested EEs at each grade level
- Teachers have the choice on which EEs to instruct and assess during each assessment window
 - Fall and Winter Windows
 - Spring window
 - Teachers do not choose
 - System selects 5 ELA & 5 Math Essential Elements

State of Iowa's DLM Science Alternate Assessment

- Teachers do not have the choice on which EEs to assess during the Spring Assessment window
 - System selects 9 Science Essential Elements

State of Iowa's DLM Test Blueprints and Timelines & Requirements

- To access the State of Iowa's DLM Test Blueprints and Timeline Requirements documents
 - Iowa Department of Education- Iowa's Alternate Assessment webpage
 - <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/assessment-testing/iowa-alternate-assessment-1-iaa>
 - State of Iowa's DLM Webpage
 - <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/iowa>

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Contact Information

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