Iowa’s AYP Alternate Assessments
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)
English Language Arts, Mathematics & Science

Policy & Guidance
2015-2016
Learning Goal

• 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](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
  • State of Iowa’s DLM Webpage
    • http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/iowa
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Contact Information

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