KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

December 11, 2020

Dear Superintendent and Director,

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) changed the requirements related to alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, which for Kansas is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). As a result of these changes, KSDE is required annually to determine whether, within a district, the percentage of students taking the DLM in one or more subjects exceeds one percent. If so, the district is required to submit a justification statement to KSDE in accordance with 34 CFR §200.6(c)(3). These justifications must be made publicly available.

Please note that there is not a cap on the number of students who may take the DLM within your district. These decisions are made on an individual student basis by Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams. However, IEP teams are required to follow the DLM Participation Guidelines found here.

As you are aware, KSDE received an assessment waiver for the 2019-2020 school year as a result of COVID 19. No new assessment data is available, so the Justification portion of the Alternate Assessment module is not required. Assurance will be required for all districts that tested 1% or more of students on the DLM for any subject during the 2018-2019 school year.

Please review the 2018-19 DLM participation data which is available now in the KSDE Authenticated Application (KIAS – Kansas Integrated Accountability System) – (Monitoring year 2020-2021)

If the percentage of students taking the DLM in any subject does not exceed one percent, then no further action is required. If the percentage of students taking the DLM exceeds 1% in any subject area, the district must complete and submit a justification form per ESSA requirements. This review, and justification submission if necessary, must be completed no later than December 31, 2020.

The DLM justifications form has been updated from last year. Since no new justification will be required for districts, we have moved the assurances (#7 and #*8) to the top of the form. The 2019-2020 justifications and reports

are visible for your review. No changes can be made to questions 1-6 and the reports are now accessible from the justifications.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts to ensure all students succeed. Please contact Cary Rogers at crogers@ksde.org if you would like further information or technical assistance related to the information and actions outlined in this notice.

Sincerely,



Bert Moore, Directors
Special Education and Title Services