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FACT SHEET

Dynamic Learning Maps

General Information

- Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Student participation is determined by the student's IEP team using the DLM Participation Guidelines, Alternate Assessment Flow Chart, and rubric for determining participation on the Kansas Alternate Assessment.
- Students who take an alternate assessment will take it in all content areas: English language arts (ELA), math and science.
- ELA and math are assessed in Grades 3-8 and 10.
- DLM science are assessed in Grades 5, 8 and 11 (spring window only).
- History, Government, and Social Studies Alternate Rubric - Classroom based assessment in Grades 4, 7, and once in High School.
- Students are instructed and assessed on Essential Elements.
- All goals must have at least 2 benchmarks/objects.
- A computer-based assessment that is dynamic which adapts to students' strengths and needs and gives teachers a powerful tool to help guide student learning.
- Provides consistency in expectations across grades and achievement levels.
- Emphasizes skill similarities in content learning and skills achievement even though ways of performing may be highly diversified.
- New and returning teachers complete required training in the fall.

Assessment Format

- Computer delivered and teacher administered testlets
- 5 linkage levels for ELA and math
- 4 linkage levels for science
- Inclusion of instructionally relevant tasks
- The First Contact Survey and PNP are reviewed and updated at the beginning of each school year.
- The First Contact Survey is used to determine the recommended linkage level for each testlet.
- Teachers can choose the ELA and math Essential Elements and linkage levels that best meet the students' needs.
- Students will test on one testlet (3-5 items) per Essential Element.
- Advanced feedback and reporting system (including growth modeling)

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What Are Learning Maps?

- The Map includes all skills needed by students in each content area.
- Provides instructional guidance as students move up the maps.
- Accommodates diverse learners by providing a range of examples for performing expectations.
- Grounded in clear expectations for learning and achievement.

Two Testing Windows

- Instructionally Embedded Assessment (Fall and Spring) – teachers choose Essential Elements and linkage level for the student.
- Blueprint requirement must be met in both windows.
- Science (Spring window only) – adaptive; teachers do not choose linkage level.
- Fall test window: September 14, 2026 – December 18, 2026.
- Spring test window: February 1, 2027 – April 23, 2027.
- ELA and Math Blueprints/Record Sheets are located on the KSDE Dynamic Learning Maps webpage.
- Progress reports available for both fall and spring test windows show what skills are mastered.

Scores Reported

- Student performance levels are reported to schools and parents.
- Student scores for DLM ELA and math are from both instructionally embedded windows.
- Student scores for science are from the nine testlets the student takes during the year end assessment (spring test window).

Website and Contact Information

Information about DLM can be found at:
Dynamic Learning Maps
KSDE Dynamic Learning Maps webpage

For more information, contact:

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