



## ASSESSMENT

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### Information for Families 2016-17



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## What is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment?

The DLM assessment measures the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities at:

- grades 3-11 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics,
- grades 4 and 8-11 in Science and,
- grades 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies.

This is an online assessment delivered via the computer; however, some students may need their teacher to present the items to them. The teacher will then enter the student's response into the online platform.

Instruction for these students is based upon the Wisconsin Essential Elements and aligns with the Wisconsin Academic Standards.

## What are the Wisconsin Essential Elements (EEs)?

The EEs are alternate achievement standards in ELA, mathematics and science. They were developed to satisfy the U.S. Department of Education requirement that Wisconsin have alternate achievement standards for its students with significant cognitive disabilities that

- clearly link to grade-level academic content standards,
- promote access to the general curriculum, and
- reflect professional judgment of the highest expectation possible.

Information about the Wisconsin Essential Elements can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/essential-elements>.

## How are the test results used?

The DLM assessment results provide information about student achievement that are used by the Department of Public Instruction in order to

- meet its legal requirement of identifying low-performing schools as determined by s. 115.38(4), Wis. Stats;
- meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine adequate progress in Title I schools; and
- determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet the Wisconsin proficiency standards.

To obtain a more comprehensive picture of your child's progress in school, daily class work, other test results, homework, and other learning activities should be considered. Please talk to teachers and counselors about how the DLM assessment information can be used in conjunction with school and classroom information to help your child meet his or her educational goals.

## What type of scores will be provided?

DLM has developed an individual student score report, the *Performance Profile*. This report is designed to help students, parents, and educators identify specific areas of strength and need relative to the grade-level EEs.

The *Performance Profile* summarizes how your student performed on the content area assessment. DLM performance levels, as defined by educators, are presented as: Emerging, Approaching Target, At Target, and Advanced.

More information about score reports can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/DLM/data>.

## When does testing take place?

DLM will be administered for students in grades 3-11 March 20-May 5, 2017. Schools set their own testing schedules within the test window. If a student is absent during testing, it is important that a makeup opportunity be scheduled.

The DLM Assessment is not a timed test. Each student is administered the test on an individual basis. A student may take the test over several days, as long as it is completed within the testing window. The total time required to administer the test varies; however, it is estimated the entire test will take about 2.5 hours to complete.

## How to prepare your child for the DLM Assessment?

Make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast. Avoid any disruptions in your child's daily routines during testing days.

More information about DLM can be found at: <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/>

## Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Sample test questions are available at: <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/releasedtestlets> [im](http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/releasedtestlets). These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on the DLM Assessment. Current DLM test questions are not released.