

TALKING TO PARENTS ABOUT THE DLM SCORE REPORTS 2016-17

Students who take Dynamic Learning Maps[®] (DLM[®]) alternate assessments receive score reports at the end of each year. This guide is designed to help you talk to parents about the DLM score reports.

If you have questions about school and state accountability, please contact your state department of education.

- ➔ There is also a PARENT INTERPRETATIVE GUIDE for DLM score reports. Review this guide and share it with parents.

Getting Ready for the Meeting

- Set a positive tone when meeting with the parent(s) to review the PARENT INTERPRETATIVE GUIDE and the student's results.
- Review the report, the interpretive guide for parents and this guide to make sure you are comfortable with the language in the report.
- Think about different explanations you may need to give and alternative wording to explain the report contents. If you need to modify the language in the report, be careful not to change the intended meaning. For example: it would be acceptable to substitute "reading and writing" for "English language arts" or "ELA." However, do not refer to ELA as just "reading," because the ELA assessment includes more than just reading.
- Review sections of the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL and ACCESSIBILITY MANUAL to remind yourself about topics that parents are likely to ask about.

Continued on next page

Discussing the Score Report

The report has a performance profile for each subject. The performance profile contains summary results for the claim or conceptual area and for the subject as a whole. Key points about each section of the performance profile are summarized below.

Overall Results

- This section explains the student’s overall performance in Essential Elements for the appropriate grade and subject.
- Remind parents that skills demonstrated during this assessment provide only one piece of evidence about what their child knows and can do.
- Caution parents against thinking that the number of linkage levels mastered is a raw score or number of items correct.
- Give academic examples of the skills.
- Provide examples of the Essential Elements. If appropriate, tell and/or show the parents where the EEs are located on your state web page.
- Tell or show parents how the EEs relate to what is being taught to grade level peers.

Performance Categories

- Explain that “at target” means the student has met the standard.
- Focus on the student’s highest level of mastery.
- [In states that convert DLM performance level descriptors into the state’s labels]: Explain how DLM’s performance levels correspond to the state’s performance level descriptors.
- If parents are concerned about low performance, remind them that the DLM assessment has high expectations, perhaps higher than the past alternate assessment. There is room for students to grow and do even more in the future. This is only the second year of DLM results.

Conceptual Areas

- This section summarizes the student’s performance in groups of related Essential Elements within the subject.
- Focus on what the student has mastered¹.
- The statements that come after the bar graphs list the skills students demonstrated during the assessment, or those that they were assessed on but did not show mastery.
- Sometimes students demonstrate skills during instruction but not during the assessment.

Remember: Convey to parents how the DLM assessment is a part of their child’s educational journey.

¹ Student mastery of skills is an estimate of mastery made with reasonable certainty. As with any test result, the skills a student demonstrates may vary across administrations.

Other Reports

You may also receive a class roster that lists DLM results for each of your students. Information about this type of report is provided in the **GUIDE TO DLM RESULTS**.

Other Information

The following information may help you talk with parents about other aspects of Dynamic Learning Maps. Use the **TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL** to locate other information that will help with your conversations.

About the assessment administration:

- Explain that this not a typical assessment. The students are administered 3-5 items grouped together in small testlets. Each testlet is at one level for one or more Essential Elements (EE).
- Explain the adaptive nature of the spring DLM assessment by telling parents that the assessment is delivered online and when the student completes a testlet, the system will present the next testlet at a higher or lower level than the previous one.
- Explain how the student accessed the assessment (computer or other device) and what accessibility supports were used.
- Consider sharing the Essential Elements that will be assessed in the next grade.

Be prepared to show examples of the EEs. The EEs are available to share. You may explain the assessment and what the student sees on the computer screen. However, do not give specific examples of test items. The test items are secure even after test administration has been completed. Example testlets that can be shared with parents are available on the DLM website: <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/information-parents>

Notes: