



DLM Assessment

2025-26 Information for Families

What is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment?

The DLM assessment measures the academic progress of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in the subject areas of:

- English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-11,
- science in grades 4 and 8-11, and
- social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10.

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 students taking the DLM is based upon the Wisconsin Essential Elements which align with the Wisconsin Academic Standards

What are the Wisconsin Essential Elements (EEs)?

The Wisconsin Essential Elements are alternate achievement standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The Wisconsin Essential Elements 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.
- reflect professional judgment of the highest expectations possible.

More information about the Wisconsin Essential Elements is available at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/essential-elements>.



How are the test results used?

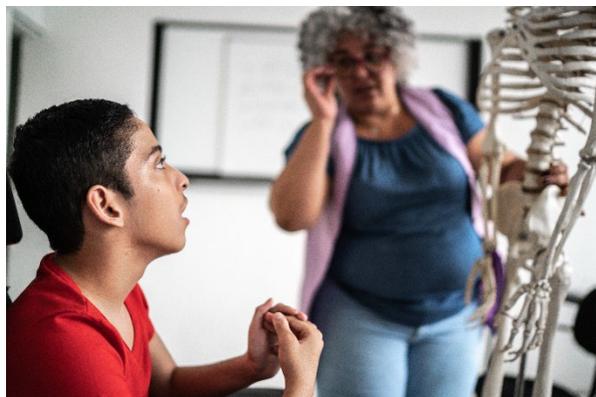
The DLM assessment results provide information about student achievement. To obtain a more complete picture, daily class work, other test results, homework, and other learning activities should be considered. Please talk to teachers and counselors about how the DLM assessment information can be used with school and classroom information to help meet your child's educational goals.

DLM Assessment results 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.
- determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet the Wisconsin proficiency standards.

What type of scores will be provided?

DLM has developed an individual student score report summary, as well as the Performance Profile and the Learning Profile. These reports are designed to help students,



parents, and educators identify specific areas of strength and need relative to the grade-level Wisconsin Essential Elements. 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.

The Learning Profile shows your student's performance relative to specific Essential Elements.

More information about scores is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm/data>.

When does testing take place?

DLM will be administered to students in grades 3-11 between March 16 and April 24, 2026. 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.



Where can I find sample or practice test questions?



Sample test questions are available at <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/released-testlets>. These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on the DLM assessment. Current DLM test questions are not released.

For more information about the DLM assessment contact the Office of Educational Accountability at osamail@dpi.wi.gov or visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm>.