



Supporting Learners with Significant Intellectual Disabilities

2023-2024 School Year

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Administrator Zoom Session September 8th, 11-12pm

- 11-11:30 Data Manager Administrator Training <https://heartlandaea.zoom.us/j/98510300021>
- 11:30-12 Assessment Coordinator Administrator Training <https://heartlandaea.zoom.us/j/98510300021>

Heartland AEA Resources

The Heartland Significant Disabilities Leadership Team (SDLT) has curated resources and crafted lessons just for you! Find access to everything at the [SDLT Google Site](#). Here is just a taste of what you can find:

- math essential elements lessons and assessments
- literacy strategies and routines
- links to upcoming professional development opportunities
- updated alternate assessment information for 2023-24

Department of Education Resources

Alternate Assessment Google Site

The [Iowa's Alternate Assessments Google Site](#) hosted by the Iowa Department of Education contains all information needed to successfully administer both alternate assessments.

Teachers and administrators should ask for access to this Site, as the Site contains certification information, timelines, administration manuals, testing blueprints (Dynamic Learning Maps, or *DLM*) and evidence cover sheets (Early Literacy Alternate Assessment, or *ELAA*).

Email Jennifer Denne (Jennifer.Denne@iowa.gov) to be added to the Google Site.

Required Alternate Assessments

The *ELAA - Dynamic Learning Map Aligned K-6 Early Literacy Alternate Assessment* is for Chapter 62 benchmarking and is required for learners in Grades K-6.

The *Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)* is the ESSA-approved summative alternate assessment with alternate achievement standards for Adequate Yearly Progress in Grades 3-11 (including Science in Grades 5, 8, and 10).

[Roster/Student Profiles Dates and Testing Windows](#)

Certification Requirements: ELAA and DLM

Teachers of learners Grades K-6 need to complete the certification for the ELAA. ELAA training is accessed through training.aelearningonline.org. Search the catalog for “K-6 Early Literacy Alternate Assessment 2023-24.”

Teachers of learners Grades 3-11 must complete the certification for the DLM. **New for 2023: DLM training is accessed directly from the DLM Educator Portal (KITE).**

Also available are these overview resources: [slide deck](#) and [recording](#).

Important Considerations for ELAA (Grades K-6)

Teachers should access recording forms and evidence sheets on the [DE Google Site](#). **The manual was updated in February, 2023. Evidence sheets have been updated as of August 14, 2023.**

New for 2023-24 school year, ELAA data will be entered in the ACHIEVE system.

For students in grades K-6 that participate in the Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (ELAA), there will continue to be three screening windows for the school year. Teachers will be required to enter scores for scales 1-4 and scale 6 for the screening/reporting windows. Scale 5, Writing: Text Types and Purposes, continues as optional.

- *Scores for each scale must be supported by three pieces of evidence.*
- *Evidence should reflect that the student demonstrated the skill in a variety of ways/activities.*
- ***Three pieces of evidence must show the student demonstrated understanding of the skill in a variety of ways/activities before it can be used for a screening score. (Updated starting the 2023-2024 school year).*** In other words, the student must have 3 of the SAME scores (e.g., 2, 2, 2) in order to report a score.
 - For the Fall, Winter, and Spring Screening, if the student does not demonstrate a higher level of skill three times from the previous window, the teacher may utilize the previous window's screening score.
- ***Evidence may be used for multiple scales as long as there is specific documentation on how the student demonstrated the skills for each scale. (Updated starting the 2023-2024 school year)***

Based on the Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (ELAA) Screening data, IEP teams must choose a minimum of one scale for monitoring of progress at least monthly. The scale(s) for monitoring will be chosen after the fall screening, and these will be required to be monitored for the rest of the year.



The Significant Disabilities Leadership Team at Heartland AEA has created checklists for teachers to help manage the administration of the ELAA: [ELAA Checklist 23-24](#)

Important Considerations for DLM (Grades 3-11)

Only EI (Eligible Individual) should be used when coding students.

Check that the current Kite Client Student Portal has been installed on any device being used for the 2023-24 DLM administration.

Test Administration Blueprints have been edited to more clearly show the number of testlets required to be administered in each assessment window. Follow the **IOWA blueprint**, not DLM! The Fall and Spring testing windows are split into 2 phases. The blueprint specifies the number of testlets required for each phase. The intent is that instruction occurs (is **embedded**) throughout the testing window, hence testlets are required in both phases.

While not a change, teachers are reminded that Science is administered for learners in Grades 5, 8, and 10.

The Significant Disabilities Leadership Team at Heartland AEA has created a checklist for teachers to help manage the administration of DLM: [DLM Checklist 23-24](#)



Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

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