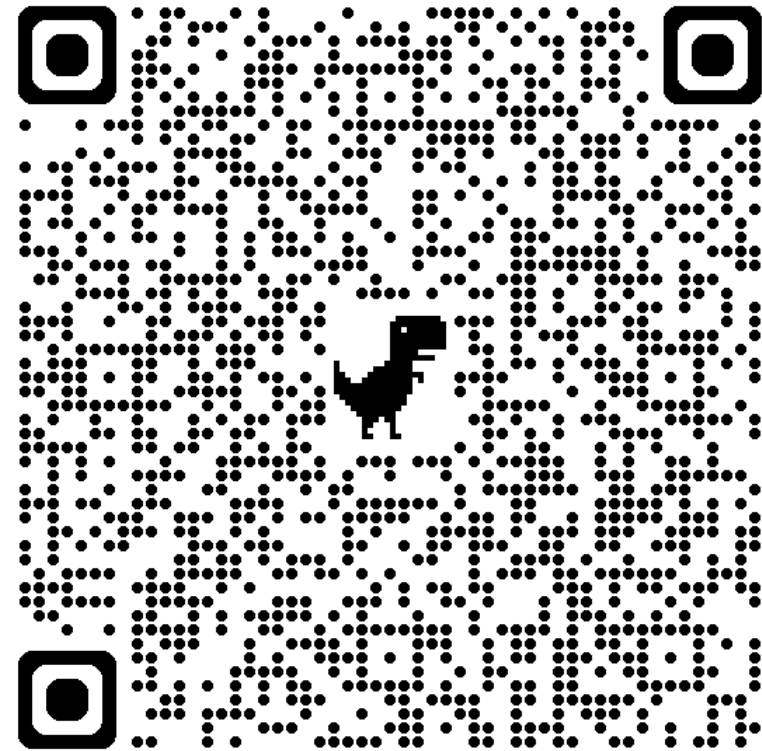


Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold: *ISBE Resources to Support Districts' Decisions on Participation in the Alternate Assessment*

Kristina Holloway, Lead
Rhonda Marks, Principal Consultant
Mike Keeney, Principal Consultant

Housekeeping

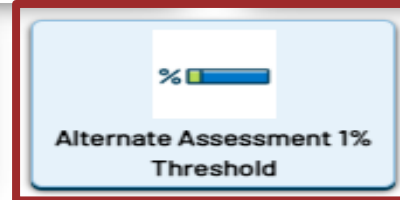
- Sign in using the QR code
- Submit all questions in the chat
- Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar



Goals for Today

- To provide LEAs with resources related to the Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold required activities and timelines.
- To provide LEAs with resources to support decision making related to student participation in the Alternate Assessment.
- To provide LEAs with resources to support submission of Justifications and Assurances

ISBE Special Education Webpage



ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT 1% THRESHOLD

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) [ESEA §111(b)(2)(D) and 34 CFR 200.6(c) and (d)], modifies the provision that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards. ESSA places a 1 percent threshold on the number of students who may participate in alternate assessments. It also requires states to provide oversight to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) when the alternate assessment 1% participation threshold is exceeded. The alternate state accountability assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) AA is aligned to the DLM-AA Essential Elements which are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Information regarding the DLM-AA and DLM-AA Essential Elements can be found on the [DLM-AA Assessment page](#).

SY 26 VIRTUAL MEETINGS

- **Alternate Assessment Office Hours Professional Learning 1**
Join us for a webinar on Mar 05, 2026 at 10:00 AM CST [📅](#).
This webinar will focus on using data systems and data analysis to make decisions about student participation in the Alternate Assessment. Attendance is required for Tier 3 (Intensive) support districts and highly recommended for Tier 2 (Targeted) and Tier 1 (Universal) support districts.
- **Alternate Assessment Office Hours Professional Learning 2**
Join us for a webinar on Apr 09, 2026 at 10:00 AM CDT [📅](#).
This webinar will focus on ISBE resources available to support districts in making decisions on students participating in the Alternate Assessment. Attendance is required for Tier 3 (Intensive) support districts and highly recommended for Tier 2 (Targeted) and Tier 1 (Universal) support districts.
- **Alternate Assessment Office Hours Professional Learning 3**
Join us for a webinar on Thu, May 7, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CDT [📅](#).
This webinar will focus on district policy, procedure, and practice development pertaining to identifying students for participation in the Alternate Assessment. Attendance is required for Tier 3 (Intensive) support districts and highly recommended for Tier 2 (Targeted) and Tier 1 (Universal) support districts.

SY 26 RESOURCES

- [SY26 Alternate Assessment Justifications and Assurances Submissions Guide](#) [📄](#)
- [SY26 Alternate Assessment Guidance and Timeline](#) [📄](#)
- [SY26 Alternate Assessment Decision Making Companion Tool](#) [📄](#)
- [SY26 Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines Form](#) [📄](#)

Alternate Assessment Participation 1% Threshold Webpage

Home > Special Education > Alternate Assessment Participation- 1% Threshold

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Alternate Assessment
Participation- 1% Threshold

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION- 1% THRESHOLD

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)[ESEA §111(b)(2)(D) and 34 CFR 200.6(c) and (d)], modifies the provision that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards. ESSA places a 1 percent threshold on the number of students who may participate in alternate assessments. It also requires states to provide oversight to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) when the alternate assessment 1% participation threshold is exceeded. The alternate state accountability assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) AA is aligned to the DLM-AA Essential Elements which are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Information regarding the DLM-AA and DLM-AA Essential Elements can be found on the [DLM-AA Assessment page](#).

SY2026 Virtual Meetings



SY2026 Resources and Documents



SY2025 Resources and Documents



LEA Justifications and Assurances



Archives



Guidance and Timeline Resource

Alternate Assessment 1% Threshold Guidance and Timeline

- Provides a breakdown of how calculations are completed
- Outlines tiered levels of support
- Outlines required activities for districts
- Outlines a timeline of activities including due dates of required actions for Tier 2 and Tier 3 districts

Justification and Assurances Resource

[SY26 Alternate Assessment Justifications and Assurances Submissions Guide](#)

- ALL districts must submit this survey by **May 29, 2026**.
- Located in IWAS under “Surveys”
- Only available to district superintendents, but they may designate others to complete the survey.
- The guide walks districts through the completion of the survey.
- The completion of the survey allows ISBE to meet Department of Education reporting requirements for statewide compliance.



Decision-Making Tool

Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Companion Tool



- Helpful for professional development, file reviews, decision making meetings, etc.
- Provides guidance on adaptive functioning

Part A: Individualized Education Program Eligibility
Directions: Review the student's IEP, assessment data, and related documents to answer the questions below. Mark the column that best answers the question.



1. Does the student have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

<input type="checkbox"/> No, the student does not have an IEP.  Stop here. The student is not eligible for the alternate assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the student has a current IEP.  Proceed to the next question.
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2. Which disability category does the student qualify for an IEP in?

<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Learning Disability ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Language Impairment ONLY  Stop here. The student is not eligible for the alternate assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Autism <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Blindness <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Delay <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment  Proceed to the next question.
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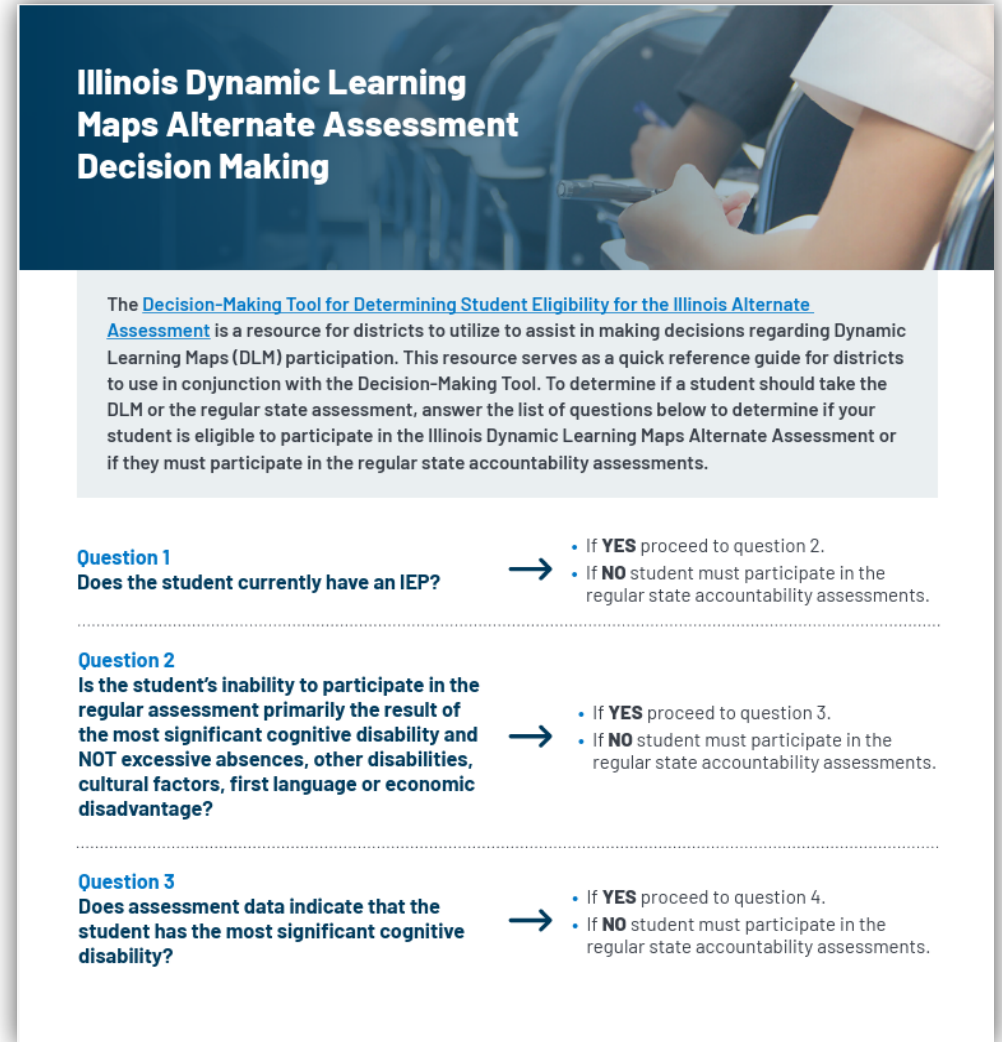
3. Does the student have intellectual functioning well below average?

<input type="checkbox"/> No. The student does not have intellectual functioning well below average.  Stop here. The student is not eligible for the alternate assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. The student has intellectual functioning well below average.  Proceed to Part B: Adaptive Functioning.
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Decision-Making Flow-Chart

Alternate Assessment Dynamic Learning Maps Decision Making Flow Chart

- Provides IEP teams with a quick reference to make decisions regarding alternate assessment participation
- Complements the Decision-Making Companion Tool



Illinois Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Decision Making

The [Decision-Making Tool for Determining Student Eligibility for the Illinois Alternate Assessment](#) is a resource for districts to utilize to assist in making decisions regarding Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) participation. This resource serves as a quick reference guide for districts to use in conjunction with the Decision-Making Tool. To determine if a student should take the DLM or the regular state assessment, answer the list of questions below to determine if your student is eligible to participate in the Illinois Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment or if they must participate in the regular state accountability assessments.

Question 1
Does the student currently have an IEP? →

- If **YES** proceed to question 2.
- If **NO** student must participate in the regular state accountability assessments.

Question 2
Is the student's inability to participate in the regular assessment primarily the result of the most significant cognitive disability and NOT excessive absences, other disabilities, cultural factors, first language or economic disadvantage? →

- If **YES** proceed to question 3.
- If **NO** student must participate in the regular state accountability assessments.

Question 3
Does assessment data indicate that the student has the most significant cognitive disability? →

- If **YES** proceed to question 4.
- If **NO** student must participate in the regular state accountability assessments.



Questions?

Reminder

Alternate Assessment Office Hours Professional Learning Session 3

- This session will focus on district policy, procedure, and practice development pertaining to identifying students for participation in the Alternate Assessment
- This session will take place on **May 7, 2026 from 10-11 a.m.**

[Register here](#)