TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for the Disabled

FROM: Bari Anhalt Erlichson, Ph.D
Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performance Officer
Division of Data, Research, Evaluation and Reporting

Susan B. Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Cancellation of Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment Field Test

Over the past several months, educators, parents and the United States Education Department (USDE) have all independently raised concerns regarding the amount of time students spend on classroom, formative and summative assessments. This is a particularly critical concern for our students who need extensive extra time to learn. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) continually strives to balance the competing priorities of administering high quality assessments with limiting the amount of instructional time spent on statewide assessments, and will continue to do so as we transition to the next generation assessments. Although we had originally planned to participate in the field test, and some districts have begun the process, the NJDOE has concluded that our students will only be required to participate in the operational DLM assessment in the spring and will not be required to participate in any field testing this year.

For those districts that had begun preparing for participation in the current DLM field test window and have completed any or all of the following activities, they will not need to be repeated for the spring operational DLM administration: preparation of student rosters; completion of the first contact surveys; and development of Personal Needs Profiles.

The USDE and the DLM consortium have assured the NJDOE that participation in the field test is not mandatory and New Jersey may choose to participate in the operational DLM assessment only for the 2014-2015 school year. The NJDOE has also been assured by the USDE and the DLM consortium that a representative sample of all students from the consortium states will participate in the field test and, therefore, New Jersey’s decision will have minimal negative impact on the test development process. The NJDOE is supportive of the DLM assessments and the work the DLM consortium has conducted. New Jersey is looking forward to the innovative ways DLM will be able to measure student proficiency, and we will continue to work with the consortium on developing a high quality assessment.
In the near future, the department will be releasing more information regarding the DLM administration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Dr. Jeffrey B. Hauger, director, Office of Assessments, at 609-984-6311 or Ms. Elizabeth Celentano, DLM/APA coordinator, at 609-984-0107 or email assessment@doe.state.nj.us.

BAE/SBM/JBH/memo:dlmcancellation
c: Members, State Board of Education
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   Senior Staff
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   Jeffrey B. Hauger
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