

**New Jersey**  
**Reducing the 1% Participation Rate Action Plan**

<b>1. Revise the Participation Criteria for the 2025-2026 Administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment</b> Note: New participation criteria were developed and implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. This activity will further refine the participation criteria.				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
Convene an internal workgroup to review/revise the existing participation criteria for the DLM.	June 2024	June 2024	<u>Internal WG</u> Kim Murray Damian Petino Amanda Philp Victoria Marcheski <i>Assessment Member</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Utilize the training and technical from NCEO provided by USED to review the existing participation criteria and identify areas requiring revision.	August 2024	September 2024	Internal WG NCEO	<i>In Progress</i>
Develop draft of revised criteria to be used by LEAs and a training plan to assist with effective implementation. Review criteria and plan State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)	September 2024	November 2024	Internal WG	<i>In Progress</i>
Finalize criteria and implement training and technical assistance plan to include guidance and technical assistance to LEA administrators and educators, families, and other stakeholders; written guidance, county-level presentations, and regional training.	January 2025	February 2025	Internal WG	<i>In Progress</i>

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Implement new criteria for 2025-2026 administration of DLM and New Jersey State Learning Assessments.	February 2025	February 2025		
<b>2. LEA Data on 1% Participation Rates Added to Annual Determinations Matrix</b>				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
<p>Rate of participation in the DLM assessment was added to the matrix for the 2022-2023 Annual Determinations issued on May 31, 2024.</p> <p>LEAs below the 1% participation rate receive the highest score of “4”. LEAs above the 1% participation rate receive a score of “1” or “0” dependent on the rate.</p> <p>LEAs that identified as “Needs Assistance” will receive targeted training and technical assistance from OSE staff.</p>	June 2024	Ongoing	Office of Special Education	<i>In Progress</i>
<b>3. DLM Participation Added to Monitoring Risk Assessment</b>				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
The participation rate in the DLM assessment was added to the risk assessment tool used to identify LEAs for Tier 2 onsite comprehensive monitoring.	July 2024	Ongoing	Special Education Monitors	<i>In Progress</i>

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<p>The risk assessment consists of 13 domains. Each domain is assigned a value between two and eight, with a total possible score of 64. Any LEA exceeding the 1% participation rate receives a score of “7” in that domain. LEAs with a score of 52 or higher will participate in intensive Tier 2 monitoring</p>				
<b>4. DLM Assessment Added to Monitoring Protocols</b>				
Sub-Activity	Start Date	Deadline	Team	Status
<p>Each LEA in the comprehensive monitoring cohort completes a desk monitoring tool that is submitted to OSE for verification. The results of that desk monitoring are combined with other risk assessment factors to determine if intensive Tier 2 monitoring is required.</p> <p>The desk monitoring protocols will be revised to include a section on the DLM participation and documentation. LEAs will submit the IEPs and participation criteria for 10 OSE-selected students who participated in the DLM assessment. Areas of focus include adherence to the</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Special Education Monitors</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p>

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<p>participation guidelines when deciding assessment participation and appropriate documentation of decision making in the IEP.</p>				
<p><b>Ongoing Activity: Targeted Review Process for LEAs Exceeding the 1% CAP</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1% Targeted Review Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessment participation data is analyzed annually to identify LEAs that exceed the 1% cap.</li> <li>○ Special education monitors meet with LEAs to conduct technical assistance sessions on decision-making and the appropriate application of the participation criteria.</li> <li>○ The Office of Special Education conducts a needs assessment with all identified local education agencies (LEAs) to determine what staff development programs are required to assist them in addressing the issue of exceeding the 1% cap on alternate assessments. Based on the results of this needs assessment, training materials are developed specifically tailored to the programmatic needs of each LEA. These customized training materials are then presented to the respective LEAs through individual training sessions.</li> <li>○ All LEAs exceeding the 1% participation rate cap must complete online training modules and submit verification of completion to the Office of Special Education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
<p><b>Ongoing Activity: Participate in Working Groups and PLGs Related to the 1% Participation Rate</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participate in National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) series of Peer Learning Groups (PLGs) around the 1% issue</li> <li>● PLG #2 Guiding and Evaluating LEA Justifications for Exceeding the 1% Cap” will meet virtually June through August.</li> <li>● PLG #3 “Building Capacity of IEP Teams and Parents in Making Decisions about Assessment Participation will meet virtually October through December</li> <li>● Member of the Assessment, Standards, &amp; Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES) collaborative.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Ongoing Activity: Revisions to Justification Document for Exceeding the 1% CAP</b></p>				
<p><b>Justification Revision History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2019-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The justification form LEAs submit when they anticipate exceeding the 1% participation rate in the AA-AAS was revised to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The percent and number of students participating in the AA-AAs for math and ELA;</li> <li>▪ The number of students in each special education eligibility category participating the AA-AAS;, and</li> <li>▪ The number and percent of students participating in the AA-AAS for the two previous school years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2022-2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The justification form includes an attestation that LEA special education leadership have viewed the online training module on the 1% cap requirement. NJDOE maintains a record to ensure all required LEAs have participated in the training.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				

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**Ongoing Activity: Identifying all LEAs Exceeding 1% CAP**

Data from the prior DLM administration are reviewed annually to:

- Identify all LEAs exceeding the 1% participation cap.
- Confirm that all LEAs exceeding the cap submitted a justification form.
  - LEAs that did not were required to submit a justification form and participate in online training.