

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Alternate Science Standards (DLM-EEs) Revision

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the committee approve the DLM alternate achievement science standards revision and forward to the Board for final approval.

Purpose of Memo:

Staff recommendation

Background:

The Utah State Board of Education has a contract with the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortia (DLM) to develop and assess Alternate Achievement Standards, titled the Essential Elements (EEs). States must include students with disabilities in their accountability systems and may develop Alternate Achievement Standards and an aligned assessment for students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities (IDEA Section 1414(d); [R277-750](#)).

The EEs are not "separate" or "distinct" from the Core Standards but simply reduce the depth and breadth of the Core Standards so that they are accessible to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The DLM Consortia revises the Standards every few years based on the revision of Core Standards in member states and the data collected from member states about the ability of students to access and make progress in the EEs and to demonstrate progress and proficiency on DLM assessment.

For reference, only 4,509 students are enrolled in the DLM system to be administered the DLM alternate assessment. Last year 3,826 students received a Mathematics score and 3,323 received a Science score. English Language Arts (ELA) scores had not been run by the time this item was submitted.

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Attachments:

1. Development of New DLM Essential Elements for Science Oct 2025
2. DLM Revised Science Alternate Achievement Standards Oct 2025
3. DLM Science EE Crosswalk Oct 2025
4. Timeline of DLM Science Resources for States Oct 2025

