DeSSA-Alt Frequently Asked Questions on the DLM Test Administration/Platform

1. **How do I know the first testlet will be suited for my student who is working below grade level standards?**

When teachers log into Educator Portal, you will rosters for every subject area test. If you click on the student, you are required to complete a First Contact Survey. The system accesses the information in the profile to generate the first Testlet. Once the student completes the first testlet, he/she may be bumped up or down on the next testlet based on performance. It is recommended that you give an ELA and then a Math Testlet so that you will have time in between to print the Tip Sheet and prepare for the next session. This will generally save preparation time.
First contact surveys can be updated if something should change for a student. These will be updated annually but if during a testing window there is an update, please give the system time (24 hours) to make those changes.

2. **Is there a Materials List available in advance for each testlet?**

The materials lists are located on the Educator Resource tab for Math/ELA on the DLM website. These   are common classroom items that you should have available. When you print the Tip Sheet – you can use items in the classroom and make a substitution, unless the Tip Sheet specifically states no substitution allowed. The substitution can be anything that does not change the construct of the test. Remember, the test is adaptive, so it is difficult to state exactly what materials to purchase. It is best to use items you already have and use in your everyday classroom instruction.

- Educator Resource Page: http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/erp_ye
- Mathematics List – pay attention to the beginning of the document and the Hints.
  http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/YE_Mathematics_Materials_Collections_Spring_2018.pdf
- ELA List – pay attention to the beginning of the document and the Hints.
  http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/YE_English_Language_Arts_Materials_Collections_Spring_2018.pdf

3. **Where can I find information on the Testlet?**

https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/About_TIPs.pdf
DLM also has a guide to Teacher Activities and Practice Testlets.
https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERP/Guide_to_Practice_Activities_and_Released_Testlets_YE.pdf

4. **Is it possible to enlarge the questions/answer choices without enlarging the pictures or the entire screen**?

This has been submitted to test developers for consideration. Several teachers display the test on a white/smart board. Also, if the font needs to bigger, teachers can certainly write it out or type it in a larger font and present it to the student.

5. **Can we have increased spacing between the answer choices?**

According to DLM, the DeSSA-Alt Test passed Peer Review and looks good on screen but the question has been submitted to test developers for consideration. Teachers who need the increased spacing for answer choices may need to also write the choices on cards to present and then the teacher can click on the correct screen.

6. **Is it possible to have the answers highlighted when being read aloud or as the teacher is reading?**

According to DLM, formal research does not support highlighting but it is in discussion and they are looking at this feature.

7. **Is it possible to have the answers presented horizontally instead of vertically?**
   This has been submitted to test developers for consideration. Again teachers can write out the answers on cards and present the in the manner the student needs them.

8. **Testing relevance – How is the Alt-Assessment relevant for IND/Functional students?**

Testing Relevance – Teachers believe IND/functional students should not be tested in these academic subjects. However, it is a USED requirement. The DeSSA-Alt adapts to the levels the students are performing at. Reading and Math are functional life skills and relevant and is a federal requirement.

9. **How long does it take for changes in accommodations/supports to occur?**

Category 1 Supports • Change immediately • these supports include: –
Magnification –
Overlay color –
Invert color choice –
Contrast color –
Spoken audio
Student receives the same testlet

Category 2 Supports • Do not change immediately- need at least 24 hours.
These supports include: –
 Braille – Alternate form-visual impairment –
Single-switch system
Student receives the same or different testlet, depending on the availability of the chosen support.

Category 3 Supports • Changes have no impact on the testlets being delivered
 These supports include:
 Human read aloud
 Sign interpretation of text
 Language translation of text
 Test administrator entering of responses for the student
 Partner-assisted scanning (PAS)
If a testlet is exited for a change in a Category 3 support, the same testlet will be waiting for the student to begin again.

10. **How long does it take for a test reset?**

Resetting testlets is a state decision.
Reset can take up to 3 business days