

PaTTAN Significant Cognitive Disabilities Newsletter

Fall Edition

Bureau of Special Education Announces New Alternate Assessment Vendor

Getting Ready for PASA DLM

The Bureau of Special Education (BSE) announces Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) Alternate Assessment System Consortium at the University of Kansas as the new PASA vendor for the 2020-21 testing cycle. Because the alternate assessment and vendor are new for this coming school year, there are several important training series offered this school year. Several are highlighted below.

- **'PASA Getting Ready'** is a virtual training provided by the BSE and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) staff for Special Education Administrators and PASA Assessment Coordinators. This annual training provides relevant updates regarding the PASA, and the federally mandated 1.0 percent threshold compliance and submission requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. The webinar will be available beginning September 25, 2020, and can be accessed on the PDE website at [Bureau of Special Education Alternate Assessment](#).
- **'Getting to Know DLM for District Test Coordinators/Assessment Coordinators'** is a **required training** series for all PASA Assessment Coordinators to introduce the new assessment. If the PASA Assessment Coordinator is not the Special Education Administrator, it is recommended that the Special Education Administrator also participate.
- **'Getting to Know DLM for Test Administrators/Assessors'** is a **required training** series for all teachers who will administer the PASA. It is also recommended that PASA Assessment Coordinators view this training as well. This virtual training is designed to introduce the teacher to the new assessment design, system, and features.

*The 'Getting to Know DLM' training series for both Assessment Coordinators and Assessors is intended to familiarize relevant personnel with the new assessment system. Both webinars should be completed prior to enrolling students and engaging in the other DLM trainings. These pre-recorded trainings will be available beginning September 28, 2020 on the DLM PA webpage. All participants must register at [PaTTAN Training Calendar](#). Act 48 credit will be available.



Explore DLM

Website Live

The Pennsylvania DLM public website is now live for administrators, teachers, and families. Begin exploring instructional professional development modules, research, publications and manuals at <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/pennsylvania>. Student enrollment and test administration of the new alternate assessment will occur through the secure PA DLM website.

- PASA Assessment Coordinators (ACs) will receive an activation email from the new system in the next week.
- Educators will be added to the system by PASA ACs and complete annual test administration training through the DLM Moodle.

PASA DLM Calendar 2020-2021

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
PASA Getting Ready	Asynchronous recording: Available Friday, September 25	<p>This annual training is a pre-recorded webinar for Special Education Administrators, Building Administrators who work with PASA, and PASA Assessment Coordinators.</p> <p>The webinar will cover important updates and requirements associated with the new PASA and 1% threshold for the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p><i>The recording and resources will be available at Bureau of Special Education Alternate Assessment</i></p>
Getting to Know DLM for Assessment Coordinators	Asynchronous recording: Available Monday, September 28	<p>This is a required, pre-recorded webinar training series for PASA Assessment Coordinators (ACs) and/or Special Education Administrators.</p> <p>The series will introduce PASA ACs and/or Special Education Administrators to the new assessment, instructional content, online system, and resources.</p> <p><i>All participants must register at PaTTAN Training Calendar. Act 48 is available. Directions for accessing the training and meeting training requirements will be provided.</i></p>
Getting to Know DLM for Assessors	Asynchronous recording: Available Monday, September 28	<p>This is a required, pre-recorded webinar training series for Assessors.</p> <p>The series will introduce Assessors to the new assessment, instructional content and terminology, and resources.</p> <p>Participation of PASA ACs is also encouraged.</p> <p><i>All participants must register at PaTTAN Training Calendar. Act 48 is available. Directions for accessing the training and meeting training requirements will be provided.</i></p>
PASA DLM Enrollment Window	October 19 – December 11, 2020	PASA Assessment Coordinators upload PASA eligible students via the enrollment template into the KITE system.
1.0 Percent Justification Threshold Submission	December 14	ALL LEAs must submit a 1.0 Percent Justification Threshold submission this year. LEAs who anticipate assessing less than 1% will submit an abbreviated justification. The 1.0 Percent Justification information and directions can be accessed at ESSA 1.0 Percent Threshold
PASA DLM Test Administration Training	Asynchronous event: Monday, October 12 – February 19, 2021	<p>This annual training is required for PASA Assessors and is available within the DLM KITE Portal. Assessments will only be released upon completion of the training.</p> <p>Prior to completion of PASA DLM Test Administrator Training, Assessors must complete <i>Getting to Know DLM for Assessors</i>.</p> <p><i>Act 48 is available. To obtain Act 48 hours participants are required to register for this training at PaTTAN Training Calendar. Directions for accessing the training and meeting training requirements will be provided.</i></p>
PASA Test Window	March 8 – May 7, 2021	
Score Reports Available	June 18, 2021	Electronic individual student score reports available to the service provider/tested site in the Educator portal. Score reports will be printed beginning on June 18 and mailed thereafter to service provider/tested sites.

Annual - 'PASA DLM Test Administration Training' is the annual **required training** that all teachers who administer the PASA must complete prior to administering the PASA. This training will be available Monday, October 12 – February 19, 2021 through the DLM Kite Portal/Moodle Site. **NEW: [Assessors looking to earn Act 48 credit must register through the PaTTAN Training Calendar.](#)**

Supporting Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Remotely

Instruction and Learning

The Bureau of Special Education is committed to ensuring students with the most significant cognitive disabilities receive instruction and supports during the pandemic. The following resources are highlighted for administrators, teachers, and families.

[Family Resources for Students with Complex Support Needs](#) – explore the Google site developed by PaTTAN consultants across multiple initiatives that support students with complex learning needs. The focus is for families, but educators will also find valuable resources. The site includes subject matter resources, scheduling information, family resources, adaptive PE activity suggestions, and assistive technology resources.

[Continuity of Education Plans](#) were curated by each PaTTAN initiative during school closures in the spring. These resources were intended to assist with online, virtual learning and continue to be available.



[Unique Learning System](#) (ULS) is an online learning platform that some school districts and service providers across the State are using to provide academic instruction to students with complex learning needs. Consultants in the PA Intermediate Units have been trained as ULS Coaches to support districts using this resource.

[Distance Learning Tips for Inclusive Education](#) are provided through the TIES Center – the National Technical Assistance Center on Inclusive Practices and Policies. Over 22 tips are available. Click here for

[Tip #16: Increasing Opportunities to Respond and Provide Feedback to Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Inclusive Online Environments](#)

[Tip# 20: Online Inclusive Education: Guidelines and Considerations for Planning Virtual Lessons](#)

[Tip #21: Distance Learning and Deafblindness: Learning from Parents](#)

The PASA Digital System closes February 28, 2021

The PASA Digital site was in operation nearly five years and was the platform that allowed schools and service providers to enroll and assess students on the former PASA. As the BSE transitions to DLM, the PASA digital site is now closed to assessors. **PASA Assessment Coordinators will have continued access to certain historical data on the PASA Digital site through February 28, 2021.** All student enrollment and test administration will be completed through the new PA DLM Kite Educator and Student portals. Likewise, the 2020-2021 PASA DLM test administration training for teachers will be provided through the DLM Moodle site. New PASA ACs must provide their name, role, and updated email address to alternateassessment@pattan.net. By doing so, the BSE will provide updated contact information to the new PASA DLM system and log in credentials for the soon to be 'retired' PASA Digital system will be sent to the updated email address. This process allows the new PASA AC access to historical records such as student enrollment information, student score reports, and prior user access.

Please do not use pasatest@pitt.edu. That email address is no longer active.