



ATLL SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

Do You Know...

How to calculate minutes for LRE?

Bell to Bell minutes, this is not the same as the core data minutes.

Consult Minutes

This is an IEP team decision, just remember if consult with student- that is a service with specialized minutes and goal.

If consult with a teacher, etc., then this is listed in SPEDTrack which requires you to add amount and frequency for Parent and School Personnel Supports- Districts can put n/a in those boxes to override it.

MAP Testing

Making up service minutes during MAP testing.

OSEP issued this guidance-

OSEP views students participating in state/districtwide assessments as a part of implementing the IEP, because their participation is required by IDEA.

Scenario

If a 5 year old (kindergarten age eligible) stayed in preschool, can you do language impairment since they are kindergarten age eligible.

1500.20.a(1)

Significantly below age expectations is defined as 1.75 or more standard deviations below the mean for students who are kindergarten age eligible and older. **Yes, LI could be use**

Sample statement what can be included in the IEP present level- not required

“ ___ will receive individual and/or small group push-in and pullout resource support for (example reading, math). Programs and services will be provided according to where student is in attendance and consistent with the district of service calendar and scheduled services, excluding holidays, vacations and non-instructional days unless otherwise specified. Also, services may be interrupted the first week and last week of school and during district and state-wide testing windows and school wide events, field trips, special activities, minimum days and assemblies. “

Can you hold up an evaluation due to a failed vision or hearing screen?

You cannot delay the evaluation due to a failed vision or hearing screening. Functional vision/hearing may be completed to determine whether hearing/vision is an issue to determine to continue conducting assessments. If it is not an issue/concern, then you document your evidence to prove that they are good... if there is a concern, it is the districts obligation/responsibility to conduct hearing/vision assessment at district expense.

Effective the 2027- 28 school year, postsecondary transition services must be included in the IEP before the student exits eighth grade

You can always start EARLY!!



Independent Educational Evaluation

1) **Myth:** An independent educational evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation conducted by the school district.

Fact: An IEE is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the school district or other public agency responsible for the education of the student in question. Parents have the right to an IEE at public expense for any agency evaluation with which the parents disagree. Public expense means that the public agency either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent.

2) **Myth:** When a parent requests an IEE the Local Education Agency (LEA) does not need to follow any specific procedures.

Fact: If a parent or legal guardian requests an IEE at public expense, the school district must, without unnecessary delay, provide the IEE at public expense, or request a due process hearing to show that its evaluation of the student was appropriate. Upon request for an IEE, each school district must provide to a parent information about where an IEE may be obtained and the school district's criteria for IEEs.

3) **Myth:** Parents are entitled to multiple IEEs at public expense.

Fact: A parent or guardian is entitled to one IEE each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

4) **Myth:** The LEA can restrict an outside evaluator from completing classroom observations.

Fact: The school district must give the independent evaluator the same opportunities to evaluate the child as given during the school district's evaluation, including an opportunity to observe in the school setting and access educational records. The school district can impose time constraints and restrictions to avoid any disruption to the classroom environment to the same extent as those restrictions are applicable to school staff performing a similar evaluation.

5) **Myth:** The parent can require the LEA to use the IEE results instead of the LEA's evaluation results in any free and appropriate public education (FAPE) related decisions.

Fact: A school district must consider the results of an IEE obtained by the parents at public expense or a parent's privately funded IEE. The school district has no obligation to adopt the evaluator's recommendations or conclusions. Considering an IEE means reviewing and discussing its contents in any matters related to the provision of FAPE. The IEE results may also be presented by any party in a due process hearing.

Tiered Monitoring

Cohort 1, Maintain and Retrain Year

Provide professional development to maintain compliance and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Review procedures and practices within LEA to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Cohort 2, Corrective Action Plan Year

Documentation to clear ICAPS due DEC. 31st

Cohort 3, Self-Assessment Year

LEAs should be gathering Initial Timelines and entering them into IMACS 2. District should be selecting files and answering the questions in IMACS 2. If you need assistance, text or email Melynda.



Cohort 3 will hear from DESE the first week of March which student files have been selected. Must upload requested files by April 1st.



MAPA Test Windows 2025-2026	Start Date	End Date
Instructionally Embedded Window (required for all— ELA, math, science)	February 2, 2026	May 15, 2026

MAPA Update

Missouri Assessment Program—Alternate

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Volume 15 issue 8, week beginning February 2, 2026

Required to Test: MAPA students in grades 3-8 and 11 are required to test this spring in English language arts and math. MAPA students in grades 5, 8, and 11 are required to test this spring in science. Check today to make sure all students are rostered, and that First Contact Surveys and Personal Needs Profiles are completed.

Spring Semester Science Field Tests: As DLM prepares for assessing the updated Science Essential Elements in Spring 2027, students may be assigned two batches of science field testlets this spring, in addition to the usual ELA and math field testlets. Each batch includes two science testlets and becomes available after the first science testlet is assigned. To identify a field test, open the Testlet Information Page—if the Essential Element code begins with “FT,” it is a field test. FT testlets are optional and not part of the student performance (they may appear easier or more difficult than expected) and are used to confirm items are ready for future testing.

Clean Data: Please check student profiles to ensure MOSIS numbers are correct, the first name is in the first name box, the last name is in the last name box, and the grade level is correct.

MDTC Corner

Direct Teachers on Testing Pace: Determine what is best for your students regarding the teach/test pattern for MAPA students. There are 15 weeks in the spring testing window. DESE uses the instructionally embedded model to allow our students to be instructed prior to being assessed in a pattern of teach, then test. Please caution teachers NOT to cram all testing into the first two weeks or into the last two weeks—pace testing throughout the window to allow for instruction.

See the "Science - Spring 2027" tab to view the revised and expanded set of science Essential Elements, which will be the basis for the testlets in the embedded science field test in spring 2026 and the operational science testlets in the spring 2027 DLM Science Alternate Assessment.

· [2027 Instructional Resources for IE Model States | Dynamic Learning Maps](#)

Student Transfer: To make a request to transfer a student, please email DESE the sending district name and building, the student mosis number, and the receiving district name and building. Note: please do not send any other student information.

**HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MAP-A? CONTACT
DAPHNEGRANDEL@MISSOURISTATE.EDU**

More about MAP-A...Science

THE HOT TOPIC IN MAPA CURRENTLY IS WHERE TO FIND SCIENCE. SCIENCE USES A YEAR END MODEL, WHILE ELA AND MATH USE AN INSTRUCTIONALLY EMBEDDED MODEL. I AM CONTACTED EVERY DAY AT LEAST ONCE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THIS MESSAGE MEANS:

FIRST CONTACT SURVEY FALL PERFORMANCE

SPRING SCIENCE TESTLETS CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED USING TEST MANAGEMENT.

TO VIEW THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TESTED IN THE FALL, SELECT THE FALL PERFORMANCE ICON.

HERE IS THE ANSWER...

TESTING SCIENCE: MISSOURI USES THE YEAR END MODEL FOR SCIENCE. IT IS BEST PRACTICE TO TEACH AND TEST SCIENCE DURING BOTH WINDOWS, BUT ONLY REQUIRED IN THE SPRING. IN THE SPRING, ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ON A SCIENCE ROSTER RECEIVE SCIENCE TESTLETS THAT ARE AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED BY EDUCATOR PORTAL, ONE AT A TIME, 15 MINUTES AFTER THE PREVIOUS TESTLET. ENSURE THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF STUDENT PORTAL (11.0) IS INSTALLED ON THE STUDENT TESTING DEVICE TO TEST ALL NINE TESTLETS. THE SYSTEM IS ADAPTIVE. THAT MEANS THE LINKAGE LEVELS WILL GET EASIER OR HARDER, DEPENDING ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE. IT IS SUGGESTED THE TEACHER GO INTO TEST MANAGEMENT TO VIEW THE TIP, REVIEW THE CONCEPT WITH THE STUDENT, THEN TEST.

- LOGIN TO EDUCATOR PORTAL AND CLICK ON MANAGE TESTS AND SELECT TEST MANAGEMENT.
- COMPLETE THE BOXES (IF NECESSARY), SELECT SUMMATIVE FOR TESTING PROGRAM, CHOOSE SCIENCE, AND CLICK SEARCH.
- SEE THE TEST SESSION NAME (THE TESTLET CODE), THE TEST TICKET (WITH STUDENT CREDENTIALS), THE TEST INFORMATION PAGE (PRINT OR DOWNLOAD THE TIP THAT LISTS THE MATERIALS NEEDED TO GIVE THAT TESTLET), THE TEST PROGRESS (WHICH TESTLET IS READY TO GIVE), THE STATE STUDENT IDENTIFIER (THE MOSIS NUMBER), AND OTHER INFORMATION.
- SEE THE SCIENCE BLUEPRINTS TO REVIEW THE NINE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO TEACH AND TEST.
- REMEMBER TO DESTROY ALL PRINTED TESTING MATERIALS AFTER TESTING IS COMPLETED.



TRAININGS

PD OPPORTUNITIES

4/2/2026	<u>Educational Benefit Review</u>
4/22/2026	<u>Process Coordinator Networking</u>
5/5/2026	<u>Transition 101 for Middle School Special Education Teachers: Repeat of April 14</u>
Save the Date	504 Training with Betsy Helfrich- September 1, 2026 9:00-11:30- Watch for Frontline Posting
June and July DESE Trainings	Postsecondary Transition Training Institute June 23-25 Special Education Director Academy- 1 st and 2 nd year Directors July 14-16
ATLL Fall Trainings Save the Dates	Special Education Boot Camp Day 1 and Day 2 July 22-23 Co-Teaching Training July 28 Paraprofessional Training July 29, Aug. 4, 6 (Repeat) Special Education Refresher August 26 MAP-A Training Sept. 2, 16, 25 (Repeat)