[Insert Date]

Dear [Insert Title],

Your student participated in the 2025-2026 statewide Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment. This year, your child’s teacher used the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment System to test academic achievement in science for grades 5,8, and 11. This assessment is designed for students with many types of significant cognitive disabilities. It is a completely individualized test designed so students can show what they know and can do throughout the school year through an instructionally embedded model. The assessment is given in short parts called testlets, so your child does not become too tired or stressed.

Alongside this letter, results from the assessment given during the school year provides information that the teacher can use to guide classroom instruction; [resources can be accessed these on the [Montana DLM Resource Page for Parents](https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/montana)], Your child will receive an Individual Student Score Report for each subject tested. The report indicates the skills your child demonstrated during the assessment. Further resources for parents on the interpretation of your child’s Individual Score Report [can be accessed [here](https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/Scoring/Parent_Interpretive_Guide_IE.pdf)]. Each Individual Student Score Report contains information about your child’s performance for one subject. This report has two parts: the Performance Profile and the Learning Profile.

The first part of the Performance Profile, labeled Overall Results, describes your child’s overall performance based on Essential Elements, which are the alternate content standards for this subject. The four performance levels are:

* The student demonstrates **emerging** understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.
* The student’s understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is **approaching the target.**
* The student’s understanding and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is **at target.**
* The student demonstrates **advanced** understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.

**“At Target”** means your child has met the alternate achievement standards in this subject at your child’s grade level. The second part of the Performance Profile describes the percentage of skills your child demonstrated on related academic skills, or Areas. If the number of skills mastered exceeds the total number of skills, your child was tested on (and mastered) more skills than necessary. Further information on skill mastery within each Area is shown in the Learning Profile portion of the report. As is the case with any test result, your child's ability to demonstrate certain skills may vary from one testing attempt to another. Please keep in mind that the skills demonstrated during this assessment provide only one piece of evidence of what your child knows and can do.

This annual alternate assessment provides critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, statewide alternate assessments can help provide a complete picture of your child’s abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success.

Additional resources that you may find of value included in the [Parent Role Resources](https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/montana) found on the Montana Consortia Site as well as the [TIES Center](https://tiescenter.org/) site.

To see how our school is performing over time and compared to other schools in Montana, visit the state’s longitudinal data warehouse ([GEMS](https://gems.opi.mt.gov/)) or visit [Montana’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Report Card Information for Families website](http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-ESSA/Report-Card/Report-Card-Information-for-Families).

Sincerely,

[Principal’s Name]