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***Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) Alternate Assessments Science Alternate – MSAA ELA/Literacy –***

***Alternate ACCESS for ELLs***

**Key Features & Supports**

* Reduced passage length in reading.
* Text includes everyday common words.
* Pictures and graphics included to help students understand.
* Models in reading, writing, and mathematics.
* Common geometric shapes and smaller numbers on the mathematics test.
* Read aloud option.
* Use of manipulatives.
* Assistive technology.
* Paper-based option.
* Alternative descriptive text for students who are blind or visually impaired.

**Accommodations**

* Assistive technology
* Paper version
* Scribe
* Sign/language

**Testing Dates – 2020**

**Alternate ACCESS for ELLs**

(8 week window)

1/6/20 – 2/28/20

**Science Alternate**

**Assessment (field test)**

(6 week window)

4/6/20 – 5/22/2

**MSAA**

(8 week window)

3/16/20 – 5/1/20

**graphics** are used to help students understand test material.

The test is untimed to allow for **flexible scheduling**, including customized student breaks and pacing.

If a student does not provide the correct answer to a question, examiners are directed to give students a **second, scripted opportunity** with additional support to answer the item.

**Basic text** and **simplified graphics** are used to help students understand test material.

The test is untimed to allow for **flexible scheduling**, including customized student breaks and pacing.

If a student does not provide the correct answer to a question, examiners are directed to give students a **second, scripted opportunity** with additional support to answer the item.

Examiners can use the same **manipulatives** during testing that students use during classroom instruction to help students respond to tasks.

**Scenarios** or passages introduce each task to engage students and activate their background knowledge.

**What are Accommodations?**

Accommodations are changes to the standard administration of an assessment that do not alter the construct being measured. Any accommodation required by a student must be included in the student’s IEP.

**How are Assessments Administered?**

Students are assessed individually. The assessments are not timed and may be paused as many times as needed for each student.

# What are Alternate Assessments?

Alternate Assessments are designed to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are provided access to the Maine Learning Results. Students are given the opportunity to show what they are expected to know and can do in relation to their grade level peers.

Core Content Connectors for English language arts and math have been developed with less depth and breadth to focus on the core content, knowledge and skills needed at each grade. Extended Science Expectations have been developed for the Science Alternate Assessment.

# Purpose of the MSAA

# The MSAA was developed to ensure that all students with significant cognitive disabilities are able to participate in an assessment that measures what they know and can do in relation to grade-level State Content Standards.

MSAA’s long‐term goal is to assist students in achieving higher academic outcomes and leave high school capable of pursuing a variety of post‐secondary options. A well‐designed summative assessment alone is insufficient to achieve this goal.

**How are Assessment Items Structured?**

MSAA provides a stage adaptive assessment that allows students to interact with items that will more accurately reflect their abilities. Science wil become operational in the MSAA assessment platform in spring 2021.

 