Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. For the 2019-20 administration, Maine will continue to utilize the eMPowerME for grades 3-8 and the SAT assessment for third-year high school students in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Students in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will participate in the Science assessment. Students in grades 3-8 and third year of high school with significant cognitive disabilities will continue to participate in the Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) to asses Mathematics and ELA/Literacy and a new Science Alternate Assessment (SAA) which will align to the Next Generation Standards. Maine will begin this transition to the SAA through a paper-based field test in the spring of 2020.

In the coming months, Maine will administer the eMPowerME, SAT, Science, MSAA and SAA assessments.

The testing windows for the assessments are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Testing Window** | **Assessment** | **Intended for:** |
| March 16 – April 10  | eMPowerME Mathematics & ELA/Literacy  | Grades 3 – 8 |
| March 16 – May 1  | MSAA Alternate Mathematics & ELA/Literacy  | Grades 3 -8, third-year high school |
| March 30 – April 10 | Science  | Third-year high school  |
| April 6 – May 22  | Alternate Science Assessment (SAA) | Grades 5, 8, third-year high school  |
| April 14  | SAT Mathematics & ELA/Literacy (School day administration) | Third-year high school  |
| April 27 – May 8 | Science  | Grades 5, 8  |
| April 28 | SAT Mathematics & ELA Literacy (make up) | Third-year high school  |

These assessments provide a snapshot of the standards that guide classroom instruction and provide valuable information about student learning. We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community about the value of student participation in statewide assessments.

As a parent, you may use the information from the assessments to help support your student at home and guide a discussion with your student’s teacher to identify what, if any, additional support may be necessary in school. Teachers use this information, in combination with other forms of local data, to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. While no single assessment can give a complete picture of achievement, when combined with other measures, it can provide important information about student progress.

Both the Maine Department of Education and our district are working to limit the amount of assessment at the state and district level to ensure that assessments provide meaningful information for teachers, students and families. When a student does not participate in the state assessment, valuable information is lost. We are committed to student achievement, and the MEA raises the bar for our students to ensure they are on the path to success. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can meet and exceed these expectations. We encourage you to reach out to [INSERT RESOURCES e.g., your child’s teacher/school/administrator] with any questions you may have about the MEA or your student’s progress.

Thank you,

[INSERT district/school administrator]