



ASSESSMENT

Assessment Team Monthly Update

March 2024



The administration window for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS has been extended to March 8. The administration window for NAEP has been extended to March 22.

The MSAA administration window will open on March 11.

Does your SAU have specific technical assistance needs around these assessments? If so, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the team or submit a request here:

[SAU Request for Assessment Technical Assistance](#)

Join us for monthly office hours with the Assessment Team

2nd Wednesday of every month, 12-1pm

[Register for office hours](#)

General Reminders

- ✓ **Keep student enrollment data up to date!** Enrollment data in Synergy is utilized to populate the NEO, assessment reports, add students to the assessment platforms, etc.
- ✓ **Keep staff data up to date in NEO** – Teams and offices across the Maine DOE utilize the SAU contact information in NEO when sending out targeted information about upcoming events and trainings.
- ✓ **Do you have challenges with Synergy, NEO, or just have a data-related question? The MEDMS Helpdesk is here to help:** medms.helpdesk@maine.gov or (207) 624-6896

Hours:

Mon - Wed: 8am - 4pm

Thursday: 8am - Noon

Friday: 8am - 4pm

Current & Upcoming Maine Educational Assessments SY 23-24

Assessment	Dates	Content Area	Participants	
ACCESS FOR ELLS (general)	1/8/24 – 3/8/24	English language proficiency	Multilingual learners in grades K-12	
ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLS (alternate)			Multilingual learners in grades K-12 with the most significant cognitive disabilities	
Maine Through Year Assessment (general)	Spring: 4/22/24 – 5/31/24	Reading and mathematics	Students in grades 3-8 and 2 nd year of high school	
Multi-State Alternate Assessment - MSAA (alternate)		3/11/24 – 4/26/24	R/LA and mathematics	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and 3 rd year of HS
MSAA Science (alternate)			Science	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and 3 rd year of HS
Maine Science (general)		5/13/24 - 5/24/24	Science	Students in grades 5, 8 and 3 rd year of HS
National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)		1/29/24 – 3/22/24	Reading, mathematics and Science (grade 8 only)	Students in selected schools in grades 4, 8 & 12

NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Krista Averill

Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or 207-215-6528.

Spring 2024 Pre-Administration

The Spring 2024 Through Year Assessment administration window opens on April 22. SAUs can begin creating groups and assigning accommodations/supports in Acacia on April 1.

Assessment Coordinator Trainings

District and school assessment coordinators should attend this training to learn about technology readiness and installing the secure testing browser, assessment management in Acacia, accessibility, and reporting. There are two sessions; coordinators need only attend one.

- March 21, 3:00-4:30pm: [Registration link](#)
- March 26, 3:00-4:30pm: [Registration link](#)

Preparing Proctors

Assessment Security Training

Proctors of the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments are required to watch two assessment security trainings once per academic year. Any new proctors who have not yet watched the following two videos will need to before administration:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#) (5 minutes)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#) (3 minutes)

MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement

Proctors of the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments are required to sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement once per academic year. The agreement is found in Appendix E (page 30) of the [Assessment Security Handbook](#). Any new proctors will need to sign the agreement before administration.

Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video

Proctors of the Maine Through Year Assessment are required to watch the [Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video](#) (9 minutes) once per academic year. Any new proctors who have not yet watched the video will need to prior to administration of the assessment.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Understanding Scores from the Maine Through Year Assessment

During this virtual workshop, participants will learn about the characteristics and purposes of the two score types produced by the Maine Through Year Assessment. Participants will interact with student RIT score and Maine-specific scale score data to develop a deeper understanding of the purpose and value of, as well as the similarities and differences between, these two measures of student performance.

The last winter workshop will be held on March 7, from 3:30-5:00 PM ([registration link](#)). An additional session may be hosted in mid-May if there is sufficient interest.

It is recommended that all workshop participants watch the [Structure of the Maine Through Year Assessment video](#) prior to attending the workshop. The video provides essential pre-requisite knowledge needed to engage fully in interacting with RIT and Maine-specific scale score data during the workshop.

NWEA Professional Learning Sessions

NWEA is hosting several Professional Learning sessions throughout March, April, and May. Available sessions include:

- *Accessing Reports for Administrators*
- *Accessing Reports for Teachers*
- *Using Achievement Levels to Ensure Classroom Rigor*
- *Using Multiple Data Sources to Inform Instruction*

Please use the links in the [Spring 2024 Professional Learning](#) flyer to register for these sessions.

NWEA Technology Updates

[MacOS 14 Secure Browser Bulletin](#)

Information from NWEA Regarding the Winter 2024 Maine Through Year Math Assessment Administration

In response to concerns from the field regarding question selection on the winter 2024 Maine Through Year Math Assessment in the elementary grades, the Maine Department of Education requested that NWEA perform a more in-depth investigation of the adaptivity of the winter assessment and question selection for specific students as well as globally. The results of that investigation can be read [here](#).

Please reach out to Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov if you have any questions regarding the information contained in the memorandum.

Maine Science Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Krista Averill

Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or 207-215-6528.

District Assessment Coordinator Access to ADAM

District Assessment Coordinators will receive an email for access to the ADAM (Assessment Delivery & Management) platform the week of March 4th.

Resources

Manuals and Guides

The [Spring 2024 manuals and guides](#) are now live on the [Maine Science Support Page](#).

Practice Tests

To access the practice tests, please use the browser-based ADAM, <https://adamexam.com/tester/>, and enter the test codes found [here](#).

Additional Resources

Additional Maine Science Assessment resources, including released items and achievement level descriptors, can be found on Maine DOE's [Maine Science Assessment](#) webpage.

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and MSAA Science

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Jodi Bossio-Smith

[Contact Jodi](#)

This week we have been inundated with questions around the upcoming MSAA administration. Thank you for being proactive and reaching out. Here are some FAQs and additional information that we hope will be helpful.

❖ **How do I access the platform if I am the school level Test Coordinator (TC) or Test Administrator (TA)?**

Every fall, all student and TC/TA data is wiped from the platform. This is in preparation for the following spring's administration. In January, Maine DOE sent a survey to all Special Education Directors requesting the name and email of the person serving as SAU-level TC for MSAA this year. Based on the returned surveys, District TC (DTC) accounts were created the week of 2/20/24.

School TC and TA accounts are being created by the DTC. If you are the DTC, you can locate the information about how to create accounts on [p.15 of the TC User Guide](#), and in training module #5 of the **Test Administration Training for Test Coordinators** in the MSAA Platform.

If you are the DTC and do not yet have an account, please [email me as soon as possible](#) with the subject line: *DTC account*.

❖ **Where can I find the updated Test Administration Manual (TAM) and User Guides for this year?**

These resources can be found on the Maine DOE MSAA webpage under "Assessment Training" : [MSAA | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#)

❖ **When will the mandatory training modules be available?**

The mandatory training modules for TC and TA are live now in the MSAA Platform. If you are both a TC and TA, you can complete the six TC modules, plus module #5 from the TA series.

If you are administering the MSAA Science, there is one additional module which must be completed.

Additionally, here are some upcoming opportunities for technical assistance:

❖ **MSAA Test Administrator Training by Maine DOE – Monday, 3/4, 2:30pm**

<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOigqz4qE9MuXvLCuxWfT4gsDRvT20G0>

- ❖ I will also be holding lunchtime (12-1pm) **Technical Assistance Hours** between 3/4/24 – 4/26/24. To schedule a technical assistance virtual meeting, please email me with three potential dates that will work for your team between 12 and 1pm.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Regina Lewis

[Contact Regina](#)

Administration window – January 29, 2024 through March 22, 2024.

The administration window for the National Assessment of Educational Progress will close on March 22, 2024. Maine is doing very well with the use of School Wi-Fi for NAEP administration. Over 60% of the NAEP selected schools have completed the NAEP assessments. Please remember that the goal for NAEP participation in each school is a minimum of 90%. This measure helps to ensure that we meet our statewide participation rate requirement of 95%. If participation within the school does not meet the 90%, the school will be asked to schedule a single NAEP make up session for the eligible absent students only. As a reminder, only students who participate in the alternate assessments or have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one year may be excluded from NAEP. If you have any questions about accommodations and/or the exclusion of students from NAEP, please contact Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov or 207-530-1355.

Other reminder:

- ***Notifying families of the students.*** Parent/guardian notification letters are available in English and Spanish within the NAEP Assessment Management System. These letters are also available in the top ten languages spoken by the families of Maine's students. The translations for the Parent Notification letters are located on the bottom of the [National and International Assessment page](#) of the Maine DOE Assessment Team Resources. *This is a new location.* The families of students selected for NAEP should be notified at least one week in advance. You may also elect to notify the parents of all students in the selected grade that their students may be selected to participate in the assessment.
- ***Both the School Coordinator and the Technology Coordinator should plan to be onsite and available*** before as well as during the administration of the assessment on the day of the assessment.

If you are a District Assessment Coordinator and you would like to assist with and/or monitor NAEP 2024 activities, please request access by emailing regina.lewis@maine.gov.

International Assessments

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Regina Lewis

[Contact Regina](#)

What's up and coming with the International Assessments:

Calendar Events for 2024 International Assessments

- TALIS Data Collection (Spring)
- PISA Financial Literacy Release of Results (Spring)
- PISA Field Test (Spring)
- PIAAC Release of Results (Winter)
- TIMSS Release of Results (Winter)
- ICILS Release of Results (Winter)

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Jodi Bossio-Smith**

[Contact Jodi](#)

Upcoming Reporting Dates

4/30/24	ACCESS Reports and Data Files Available- Online in WIDA AMS
5/16/24	ACCESS Reports Available in District- Printed
9/13/24	WIDA Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data Files Available- Online in WIDA AMS
10/2/24	WIDA Alternate ACCESS Reports Available in District-Printed

Any questions or technical assistance needs? Please reach out to [Jodi Bossio-Smith](#), Director of Assessment.