



Maine Department of Education

Maine's Comprehensive Assessment System (MeCAS)

Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP): Q & A Brochure

Question	Answer
<p>What is the purpose of the PAAP?</p>	<p>Maine's state level assessment program is one component of a comprehensive assessment system designed to determine what students know and are able to do as articulated in Maine's <i>Learning Results</i>. The purpose of the Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP) is to provide information about the academic achievement and progress of students who, because of their unique learning needs, cannot access other assessments. The content of this assessment has been reduced in its depth and breadth but remains focused on those content standards that can be measured using approaches different than the typical, on-demand pencil-and-paper test. The results from this assessment provide educators, parents, and the public information to inform teaching and learning.</p>
<p>Who must participate in this statewide assessment?</p>	<p>All students, in grades 3-8 and high school, who require an alternate assessment because their exceptionality is so significant that it does not allow access to the MEA or MHSA, must participate. Most students participating in the PAAP are among those who receive services under the IDEA; however, other students may require this assessment approach. Other students (e.g., LEP) taking the PAAP will be classified as non-participants for federal (NCLB) accountability determinations.</p>
<p>When will students participate in the PAAP this school year?</p>	<p>Students who participate in the PAAP are assessed through tasks collected throughout the school year. This process allows for the integration of instruction and assessment with multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The assessment contractor, Measured Progress, has scheduled the collection of the portfolios for April 6, 2007. Portfolios received after April 9, 2007 will be outside the scoring window. Students for whom PAAPs were submitted after the deadline will be considered non-participants for federal (NCLB) accountability.</p>
<p>What types of information will students, parents, and educators receive?</p>	<p>Parents and schools will receive individualized reports showing their child's performance in reading, writing (5, 8, and HS), mathematics, and science & technology (grades 4, 8, and 11). These reports describe the achievement continuum using achievement levels (<i>Attempting, Emerging, Meeting, and Exceeding</i>) and associated descriptors. Schools and SAUs are provided additional reports including those on the achievement of subgroups found within their population.</p>
<p>How are PAAP results used for federal accountability decisions (AYP)?</p>	<p>The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act mandates that all students in grades 3-8 and high school be included in state assessments. The PAAP results include scores linked to Maine's <i>Learning Results</i> in reading and mathematics, which are reported by achievement level. Only those special education students with a significant cognitive disability having achievement levels at <i>Meeting</i> or higher are classified as proficient for AYP purposes. PAAP results are included in all federal accountability decisions at the subgroup, school, SAU, and state levels.</p>

Contact Information

PAAP Coordinator: Linda Parkin

Phone: 207.624.6782

Email: linda.parkin@maine.gov

Web: <http://www.mecas.org/paap>