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| **Alternate Assessments**In accordance with Title I, Part A and Title II, Part B of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* [2015], students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may qualify for the state alternate assessments. The number of students participating in alternate assessments is not to exceed 1% of the total number of students testing in a given subject area. Eligibility to participate in the alternate assessments is determined by the IEP [Individualized Education Plan] team.[**Multi-State Alternate Assessment [MSAA]**](https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/materials/msaa)The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) is Maine’s MEA Alternate Mathematics and English language arts/literacy assessment. The MSAA test is an Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) that aligns with Maine’s College and Career Readiness Standards. As a partner state of MSAA, Maine continues to participate in the development of this assessment.[**Science Alternate Assessment [SAA]**](https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/materials/saa)Maine continues to move toward a new science alternate assessment which aligns to the Next Generation Standards.  Maine will implement the Science Alternate Assessment through the MSAA system during the spring 2021 administration.  This assessment will be an on-line Operational Field Test.  A paper-based test is available to print with an IEP approved accommodation.[WiDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs](https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/materials/access)The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) is Maine’s assessment of English language proficiency (ELP) for students in grades 1-12 who are classified as English learners and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.All students identified as English learners must be assessed annually for ELP, including students who receive special education services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act also mandates that students with disabilities participate in statewide and district-wide assessment programs, including alternate assessments with appropriate accommodations, when it is documented in their Individualized Education Programs. For this reason, Maine uses the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to meet federal accountability requirements and to provide educators with a measure sensitive to ELP growth of English learners with significant cognitive disabilities. |

