

Professional Learning Opportunities

The *Maine DOE professional learning calendar* is available.

There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators.



COVID-19 Resources for Schools

[Department and Commissioner updates](#) related to the COVID-19 pandemic are available for schools. Please also note a resource page for families contains updates, materials and resources.



MECAS Guidelines August 2021

The MECAS guidelines provide background and reference information for educators and administrators responsible for administration of assessments to Maine students. The MECAS Guidelines are designed to provide the breadth of background information that district and/or school personnel need to carry out the responsibilities for the successful administration of the individual assessments within the Maine Comprehensive Assessment System. Although the team is working to update for the 2021-2022 school year, this document is not intended to replace assessment specific guides or handbooks. This document is also formerly known as the OPM and will be available mid-August on the [assessment home page](#).

NEO & Synergy Reminders

As we move closer to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, please ensure that contact information for teaching and non-teaching roles is updated within NEO. Instructions to update district roles (including DACs) may be found at: [Updating Staff Contact Information.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#). Please reach out to the [MEDMS helpdesk](#) with any questions or concerns.

Assessment Team contact information:

Janette Kirk
Director of Assessment
207-441-2958
janette.kirk@maine.gov

Jodi Bossio-Smith
Alternate & WIDA Assessment
Coordinator
207-530-1462
jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

Nancy Godfrey
Math, ELA/Literacy & Science
Assessment Coordinator
207-530-1273
nancy.godfrey@maine.gov

Regina Lewis, Ph.D.
NAEP & International
Assessment Coordinator
207-530-1355
regina.lewis@maine.gov

Varun Motay
Data Analyst
207-530-1368
varun.motay@maine.gov

Chery Brackett
Management Analyst
207-441-3019
cheryl.brackett@maine.gov



NWEA Fall Assessment Administration

The NWEA state assessment window will open on October 2 through October 29, 2021. As a reminder, text-to-speech will be disabled for the reading assessment during this window but is available for SAUs to use locally in the broader assessment window of August 15 through November 30. Additionally, the language usage assessment will be administered during the fall 2021 and spring 2022 assessment administration windows. The full is available on the [assessment pages](#) within the Maine DOE website.

Upcoming Professional Learning

MAP Growth Basics

This session will highlight the purpose and key metrics of essential MAP Growth classroom-level reports. The data in these reports will support teachers in identifying instructional areas of strength and focus and in engaging in conversations about student achievement and growth.

Learning Targets

- Learn about key MAP Growth characteristics such as RIT scores, adaptive assessment, instructional level, and normative data
- Experience the assessment as a student, learn how to set up and proctor the assessment, and discuss the importance of preparing students for the assessment

Dates	Time	Link
8/4/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
8/5/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
8/10/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
9/7/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
9/9/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register

Stay in the Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for assessments. For those looking for notifications regarding the ACCESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. The following links can be used to subscribe:

General Assessment MEA Listserv

Alternate Assessment Listserv

WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv



Essential Reports for Administration for Maine Educators (NWEA)

Once you've administered your MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data. Plan how to use your MAP Growth data to inform ongoing work and school- and district-related decisions.

Learning Targets

- Access, interpret, and apply key MAP Growth reports that school and district administrators use for planning
- Help your team interpret and apply data by conducting powerful strengths-based conversations
- Make decisions that inform school improvement planning and resource allocation with MAP Growth status and growth data

Dates	Times	Link
8/9/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
9/13/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/7/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/12/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/15/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register



A Reminder for ACCESS

- Plan, schedule, and review assessment sessions in WIDA AMS
- Share all important technology updates with the district technology coordinator.
- Confer with special education director/case managers to confirm that the accurate accommodations have been selected /established for students with IEPs in the WIDA AMS system.

[Click here to read more about ACCESS accommodations.](#)

Need support with ordering additional materials, setting up assessment sessions and/or accommodations, or identifying required assessment training? If the answer is yes, please reach out to the Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments, Jodi Bossio-Smith, at Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

Applying Reports 1: Connecting MAP Growth Scores to Student Learning (NWEA)

Once you're comfortable with the basics of administering MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data.

Learning Targets

- Understand how MAP Growth RIT scores measure what each student knows and is ready to learn
- Identify ways to use MAP Growth data to flexibly group students
- Access, interpret, and apply MAP Growth data
- Analyze MAP

Dates	Times	Link
8/11/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
8/12/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
8/16/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
8/17/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
9/14/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
9/16/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/4/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/5/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/14/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
10/19/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register
11/2/2021	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Register

Save the Date: September 15, 2021

Overview of Alternate Assessments & the 1% Population Webinar (MSAA)

During this webinar, Maine DOE will provide an overview of federal requirements pertaining to the alternate assessment of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Information will also be provided about Maine's alternate assessments with critical dates to be aware of during 2021-22. Registration information will be available September 1st, 2021. This session is recommended for new DACs, alternate assessment coordinators and special educators.

Special Considerations Module:

The assessment team is currently working with the data and OIT teams to revise permissions related to the special consideration module within NEO. As a direct result of feedback within the assessment survey, we are working to add the role of DAC to the applicable permissions. There was some interest in the special education director and technology director also having access to the module however, in an effort to maintain consistency and limit broad access, we are currently pausing providing additional access however, superintendents are able to request additional designees be added to the module at any time. Information on how to request access for additional designees can be located on the MEDMS Helpdesk – [Request access page](#).

Alternate & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

All students who are identified as English learners **must** be given an EL Start Date in Synergy. This ensures that the state has accurate enrollment records for EL students receiving services and participating in ELP assessment. This year, Maine DOE will coordinate the materials ordering for ACCESS assessments in each SAU. Therefore, the EL Start Date must be included in the students' enrollment in Synergy to ensure the correct assessment materials are received. Requests must be submitted to DOE for: Paper based tests & Braille forms.

Assessment Lunch & Learn Office Hours

The Maine Department of Education assessment team will reinstitute assessment office hours beginning on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 12 noon. Moving forward, based on survey feedback, office hours will be provided once per month (2nd Wednesday of the month) with the schedule adjusting to bi-weekly and weekly if needed during assessment administration. Topics to be included during the September office hours include regional program/out of state students, onboarding, and rostering; EL start dates and overview of ACCESS timeline; alternate assessment flags in NEO and an overview of the 1% timeline. A calendar of potential topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages.

MSAA & MSAA Science

All students who participate in the alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards [AA-AAS] must have the alternate flag checked in Synergy. The MSAA and MSAA Science are designed for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and participation is made by the IEP Team using state criteria for eligibility.

*Please note, the alternate assessment flag in Synergy must be re-checked each year that the student remains eligible to participate in alternate assessments.

Assessment Calendar for 2021-2022

The assessment calendar for school year 2021-22 is now available on the [assessment calendar webpage](#) and is included below for your convenience. The [priority notice within the Maine DOE newsroom](#) regarding assessment calendar availability was published on July 30th, 2021.

Assessment Title	Administration Date(s)	Administration Window	Method of Delivery	Intended For
ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 10 - March 4, 2022	8-weeks	Kindergarten: Paper Grades 1-12: Online	English Learners K-12
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 10 - March 4, 2022	8-weeks	Paper / Pencil	English learners in Grades 1-12 with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
MSAA ELA/Literacy & Mathematics	March 14 - April 29, 2022	6-weeks	Online	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 3-8, & 3rd Year of High School
NWEA Mathematics, Reading & Language Usage	FALL: October 4 - 29, 2021 SPRING: May 2 - 27, 2022	4-weeks	Online	Students in Grades 3-8 & 3rd Year of High School
MSAA Science	March 14 - April 29, 2022	6 weeks	Online	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 5, 8, & 3rd Year of High School
Science	May 2 - 13, 2022	2 weeks	Online	Grades 5, 8
	May 16 - 27, 2022	2 weeks		3rd Year of High School

National & International Assessments

Assessment	Administration Dates	Intended For
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	January 24 - March 4, 2022	Grades 4 & 8 Sample of Selected Schools
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)	September 30 - October 29, 2021	Age 15 Sample of Selected Schools
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)	Tentatively Fall 2021	Sample of Selected Schools
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)	N/A 2021	Sample of Selected Schools

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Preparations for NAEP 2022 have begun. Schools and districts selected for participation in the assessment will be notified in August. This year's assessment subjects include the biennially administered Mathematics and Reading assessments for grades 4 and 8, as well as Civics and U.S. History for grade 8. The scheduled window for NAEP administration is January 24 – March 4, 2022.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021

A small number of Maine schools have been selected for the PISA 2021 sample. These schools were notified of their selection for participation in June. PISA is the largest international education study in the world and measures the mathematics, reading, science, and financial literacy of 15-year old students nearing the end of compulsory education. The assessment window is scheduled for September 30 – October 29, 2021. More information, including the PISA Data Explorer and the 2018 Study Results, is available [here on the PISA website](#). Please reach out to Dr. [Regina Lewis](#) with any questions.

