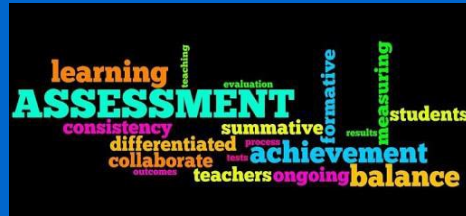


Professional Learning Opportunities

The new Maine DOE professional learning calendar is now available on the Maine DOE website. There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators. The new calendar has increased functionality including a search feature.



Corona Virus (COVID) 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.

Assessment Windows Now Open

Assessment Title	Administration Date(s)
ACCESS for ELLs English Literacy Proficiency	1/11/21 - 4/16/21
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs English Literacy Proficiency	1/11/21 - 4/16/21
MSAA ELA/Literacy & Mathematics	3/15/21 - 5/14/21
ELA/Literacy & Mathematics NWEA	3/01/21 - 6/15/21
MSAA Science	3/15/21 - 5/14/21

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Meet the Team

*Assessment Coordinators – please verify Assessment Administrators have been able to log in to the MSAA System, can view the students to be assessed and have completed mandatory training modules

Communication

Due to the increased volume of emails during an assessment administration window, you may receive an out of office message from assessment coordinators. Please note, they are very much in the office, however, may not be able to immediately respond to your emails. The out of office messages provide specific guidance should you be experiencing challenges with assessment administration. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Family MEA Letter Now Available

The team is pleased to be able to provide a translated family MEA letter for districts to use should they choose. Translated documents are available within the communication toolbox within [the assessment and resource webpage](#). The documents are available in the following ten (10) languages: Arabic, Chinese-Simplified, French, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Lingala, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Portuguese (Angola).

Maine Science Assessment Professional Development

- **Phase 1** science assessment professional development will be a general NGSS Science overview which will focus on outlining Disciplinary Core Ideas, the Science and Engineering Practices, and the Cross-Cutting Concepts outlined in the Performance Expectations of the NGSS. DOE and New Meridian will prerecord this first session and post on the Science webpage during the week of April 12th. After giving the field time to watch and/or re-watch the prerecorded session, digest information and construct questions, a live review Q&A session will be held April 27th
- **Phase 2** will be primarily for DACs and Tech Directors/Coordinators. This will cover the technical aspects of the New Meridian platform ADAM. This professional development

Stay in the DOE Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for general assessments and for the Alternate Assessment. For those looking for notifications regarding the ASSESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. Please use the following links to subscribe:

[General Assessment MEA Listserv](#)

[Alternate Assessment Listserv](#)

[WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv](#)

[ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Window Open](#)

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment window opened on January 11th and remains open through April 16th, 2021.

will include lockdown browser & installation set up, system requirements for online assessment, and overall technology guidance. The date for this is to be determined.

- **Phase 3** will be all personnel involved in the administration of the science assessment. The date for this is to be determined.

Paper Based Accommodations

The 2021 Maine Science assessment is administered via an online platform, in-person. The Maine science assessment assesses what students know and can do related to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These NGSS standards focus on cross-cutting concepts, science and engineering practices, and disciplinary core ideas with items grouped or clustered, including Technology Enhanced Items (TEI). Features available within this online assessment will not be available within a paper-based assessments. **A paper format should only be requested for a student with an accommodation as outlined in an IEP or 504 Plan.** New this year is the online Qualtrics Survey process for requesting a paper copy of the assessment. [Requests for a paper copy of the Maine Science assessment](#) should be made as soon as possible. The deadline to request a paper copy is Friday April 30, 2021.



NWEA Math & Reading Professional Development Updates

Professional development for SAUs/districts new to NWEA and professional learning for remote administration planning and MAP Growth basics have concluded. A recording of each of these sessions can be located on the [NWEA webpage](#) and are also included below.

Upcoming Data Deadlines

- Please keep student enrollment records up to date in Synergy. This data is pulled periodically by Department teams. Updated and accurate enrollment data in Synergy allows the Department to upload student lists, utilize reported data therefore reducing the burden on schools/districts.
- Please ensure all District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) contacts and other contacts are current in NEO. In this time of uncertainty and adaptation, it is imperative that all contacts be accurate and up to date. This will provide Maine DOE personnel the ability to contact the appropriate person in order to share applicable and important information in a timely manner. Such roles are listed in the DOE [NEO Dashboard SuperSearch](#), which requires no login credentials. If a DAC needs to be updated/changed, directions are located on the [assessment webpages](#). (login credentials required)

[MAP Growth Basics with Remote Considerations \(1hr:54min\)](#)

[MAP Growth Remote Assessment Planning for Leaders \(1hr:47min\)](#)

MAP Growth Onboarding Webinar (coming soon)

[NWEA® Professional Learning MAP Growth Virtual Basics Padlet Resources](#)

[NWEA® Professional Learning Remote Planning for Leaders Padlet Resources](#)

NWEA administration and training materials continue to be added to the [NWEA webpage](#). Now available are practice assessments for students to familiarize themselves with the look and format of the online platform, in addition to use of the universal tools and features available to all students. Students can practice navigating the assessment in a variety of grade levels and content areas. The login Credentials same for every content/grade.

NWEA MAP Growth Practice Assessments

Username: grow

Password: grow

Assessment Office Hours

Assessment office hours continue to be implemented on a weekly basis alternating between focused sessions for DACs and assessment in general. All Q & A documents related to sessions provided beginning Friday, February 5, 2021 are available on the [Assessment Administration Materials and Training](#) webpage. Recordings of the office hours are now also available and have been added to the page.

Office hours on Friday, April 2, focused on how to complete student rostering within the NWEA platform. Representatives from NWEA and Maine school districts lead the session and were available to answer questions. A follow up technical assistance session will be provided on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12 noon. A link to the session will be provided prior to the meeting via email.

Office hours on Friday, April 9, will focus on accommodations and how to add student accommodations within the NWEA platform. An additional follow up technical assistance session will be provided on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 12 noon. Links will be provided via email.

There will be no assessment office hours on Friday, April 23, 2021.

ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ELLs WIDA Assessments Resources

[Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19](#) [Understanding ACCESS for ELLs Scores 2021](#)

Many thanks to the districts for continuing with good faith efforts to administer English learners when safely feasible. By extending the assessment window to 14 weeks, we have been able to add flexibility and capacity with regards to scheduling and the administration of these assessments. District reports will become available online on **June 18, 2021** and printed reports mailed to districts on **July 12, 2021** to support EL educators and administrators in targeting necessary supports and resources for the upcoming school year.

DRC Customer Service is on call to assist educators with questions on the following topics from **8:00 am – 7:00 pm (EST), Monday through Friday**:

- o Technology Setup and Troubleshooting
- o Materials orders and returns
- o Student and test session management

DRC can be reached at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and by phone at (855) 787-9615.

Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments Jodi Bossio-Smith, Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

“Life’s most persistent urgent question is
“what are you doing for others?”

Martin Luther King

Extension of NAEP

Maine schools originally selected for participation in NAEP for the spring of 2021 are participating in the monthly NAEP 2021 School Survey and the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Study. The Maine Department of Education recognizes the importance of accurate and reliable data to guide decision-making and appreciates the commitment of Maine schools selected to participate and to make corrections to the data when necessary.

NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Study

In November, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) postponed the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) until the next school year. At that time, NCES emphasized that the possibility of administering NAEP questionnaires remained open. NCES has decided to conduct the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Special Study, which involves administering the school and teacher questionnaires along with additional questions related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The focus of the study will be to understand how topics such as technology use and access, resources for learning and instruction, organization of instruction, teacher preparation, and self-efficacy (related to delivering remote instruction) affect education across the nation. ***The administration of the survey will occur March 29 to April 23 and will be delivered via an online questionnaire.***

Grade 4 and/or 8 mathematics and reading teachers will be asked to complete the online questionnaire, which takes about 25-35 minutes to complete. Only the teachers from the NAEP sampled grade and school

need to complete these one-time questionnaires. The designated school coordinator will be asked to provide the contact emails for the eligible teachers. Additionally, the coordinator or a school administrator will be asked to complete a single administration of the 40-minute school questionnaire designed specifically for this study.

NAEP 2021 School Survey.

The monthly survey gathers information regarding grade 4 and 8 student instructional modes and attendance rates through the end of the 2020-21 school year. ***The next administration of the NAEP 2021 School Survey is scheduled for April 14–23. Please note the National Center for Education Statistics has extended this window. Please submit prior to school vacation.***

A new question designed to monitor the vaccination rate of teachers has been added to the monthly survey. The Maine Department of Education will receive a data file from each of the monthly data collection windows as well as a final cumulative data file. The Department plans to use this data to support schools as they develop ongoing instructional models and plans. A pdf copy of the NAEP 2021 School Survey is [located here for your convenience](#).

Please feel free to email Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov with any questions.

Reminders

Bi-weekly DAC and Assessment Office Hours

DAC and assessment office hours continue to be offered on a bi-weekly basis. The team will continue to send reminder links to these opportunities the day prior to the office hour.

Meeting invitations will be provided through the following mechanisms:

- DAC Assessment Hours – through a direct email to DACs with the link included.
- Assessment Hours – an email with log-in information will be provided through assessment list servs.

Special Consideration – Translated Parent Consent document now available

The team is pleased to be able to provide a translated parent consent letter required as part of the special request process. Translated documents are available on [the Assessment webpage](#). The documents are available in the following ten (10) languages: Arabic, Chinese-Simplified, French, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Lingala, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Portuguese (Angola).

Next Publication of Assessment Monthly Update May 1, 2021

