



Assessment Team Office Hours Q&A

August 4, 2026

Resources

- [Office Hours Slides](#)
- [Office Hours Recording](#)
- [Maine DOE Professional Learning Calendar](#)
- Office Hours ([Registration Link](#))
 - 2026-27 School Year: 2nd Wednesday of each month (3rd Wednesday in November) at 12:00 PM

Maine Through Year Assessment

Resources

- [Maine DOE Maine Through Year Assessment Webpage](#)
- [NWEA Maine Connection Page](#)

Questions

I appreciate that the RIT score shows growth over time, but how does it help our teachers close achievement gaps for students who are way behind grade level?

Answer provided by Lori Seelig, NWEA Sr Implementation Manager:

The RIT score helps educators identify students who may need additional support or extension while monitoring growth over time. RIT scores can highlight potential areas of need, but they should be used alongside classroom performance, formative assessment data, and other local measures to determine appropriate instructional supports. Regardless of performance level, students should continue to have access to grade-level content.

Do you have item by item analysis by classrooms, grade levels, school, or district? I am looking to compare where we may have weak areas and provide supplemental resources to teachers to assist in instructing students in the areas of need.

Aggregated item by item analyses are not available.

Information from NWEA's Psychometrics Team:

With some content standards being administered to **many students** and others to **few students**, the amount of data supporting each standard differs substantially:

- Standards that are administered to many students:
 - Estimates (e.g., percent correct, average score) are **more stable**
 - There is also a lower sampling error
- Standards that are administered to few students:
 - Estimates are **highly variable (less stable)**
 - More sensitive to which students/items happened to be included

It is difficult to summarize student performance at the content standard level when sample sizes differ because the resulting standard scores are based on unequal, incomplete, and noisy information—leading to high variability, reduced reliability, and limited comparability.

Based on this information, NWEA does not recommend that SAU/schools aggregate item standard information.

Additional guidance from Lori Seelig, NWEA Sr Implementation Manager:

Maine Through Year Assessment results, together with the [Achievement Level Descriptors \(ALDs\)](#), can help identify areas where students may need additional support. The ALDs describe the knowledge and skills students demonstrate at each performance level. ALDs can help educators identify content that may warrant additional emphasis through grade-level instruction, formative assessment practices, and targeted supports.

When Maine Through Year Assessment RIT scores are used to inform MAP Growth reporting, reports such as the School Profile, District Profile, and Class Profile can help educators identify trends across schools, grades, classes, and student groups. These reports can help pinpoint areas of lower achievement and guide conversations about instructional priorities.

Assessment results are most valuable when combined with other sources of evidence, including classroom performance, formative assessment data, and local assessments, to determine the most appropriate instructional supports and resources for students.

Maine Science Assessment

Resources

- [Maine DOE Maine Science Assessment Webpage](#)
- [Maine Science Support](#)

Questions

No questions at this time.

ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS (English Language Proficiency Assessments)

Resources

- [Maine DOE English Language Proficiency Assessments Webpage](#)

Questions

No questions at this time.

MSAA (Multi-State Alternate Assessment) in Math, ELA, & Science

Resources

- [Maine DOE MSAA Math/ELA Webpage](#)
- [Maine DOE MSAA Science Webpage](#)

Questions

No questions at this time.

NAEP & International Assessments

Resources

- [Maine DOE NAEP & International Assessments Webpage](#)
- [Nations Report Card Website](#)
- [NAEP Data Explorer](#)
- [NAEP Questions Tool](#) - Released items by subject, grade, and year
- [NAEP Item Maps](#) – Released items by difficulty for subject, grade, and year

Questions

No questions at this time.