

Maine Educational Assessments & Level 2 Technical Assistance

Have you heard about... the new Assessment Dashboard in QuickSight?

The Maine Department of Education's (Maine DOE) new State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) includes a dashboard where SAU leadership can view student data across Maine Educational Assessments! For more information, please view the recording of Assessment Team November Office Hour team with Maine DOE Data Warehouse Coordinator Brett Molin. You can access past office hour recordings and slide decks at this link: [Resources from the Assessment Team | Department of Education](#)

Superintendents already have access to [QuickSight](#) and can request access to the assessment data dashboard for District Assessment Coordinators. To request access, please visit: [Data Systems Access](#)

Maine DOE Seeking Feedback in Maine's State Reading/ELA and Math Assessment Development Survey

In September of 2024, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a statewide reading and mathematics assessment in grades 3-8 and high school. Following the work of the RFP evaluation committee, a decision was made to cancel the RFP. The bids received, along with subsequent conversations with the scoring committee and internal teams, revealed gaps in the RFP document itself, which resulted in proposals that did not meet the needs of Maine schools in the best ways.

To ensure that Maine educational assessments continue to prioritize the needs of Maine students and educators, the Maine DOE is seeking feedback from a variety of educator voices statewide via the [Maine's State Reading/ELA and Math Assessment Development survey](#). The Maine DOE will carefully review the results of this survey as a critical step in the development of the next assessment RFP.

The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete and includes short, embedded videos to help respondents understand the current requirements related to state academic assessments and accountability. **Participants are asked to complete this survey by December 19, 2025.**

Please share the survey widely with educators and school leaders in your network. With questions, contact Jodi Bossio-Smith, Maine DOE Director of Assessment, at jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities with the Assessment Team

WIDA Alternate ACCESS for MLs: An Overview – 3:15 p.m. ET, 12/1/2025

Assessment Team Office Hours – 12:00 p.m. ET, 12/3/2025

WIDA ACCESS Grade 4-5 Writing Response Booklet Mandatory Training – 3:15 p.m. ET, 12/3/2025

Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the WIDA ACCESS - 3:15 p.m. ET, 12/15/2025

To register for these and other Maine DOE professional learning sessions, please visit:

[Event Calendar | Department of Education](#)

NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or (207) 215-6528.

Fall 2025 Administration: Important Date

December 3: Fall 2025 Student Score Data File becomes available

Optional Winter 2026 Administration: Important Dates

December 15: Acacia opens for pre-administration activities, such as assigning supports/accommodations and creating Online Testing and Reporting groups

January 5 – February 13, 2026: Winter administration window

January 30: Last day to submit paper-based assessment form requests, including standard print, large print, and braille [via the request form](#). *The request form will open for the winter administration on December 15. Paper-based tests must be re-requested for the optional winter administration.*

February 6 @ 4:00 PM: Last day to request an assessment reset. *The Reset Request Form will become available in January 2026 when the test administration window opens.*

February 12 @ 8:00 PM: Last daily change assessment roster file is generated based on student information entered into Synergy. Any student demographic updates made in Synergy after this date/time will not appear in Acacia.

February 23-27: SAU data cleanup

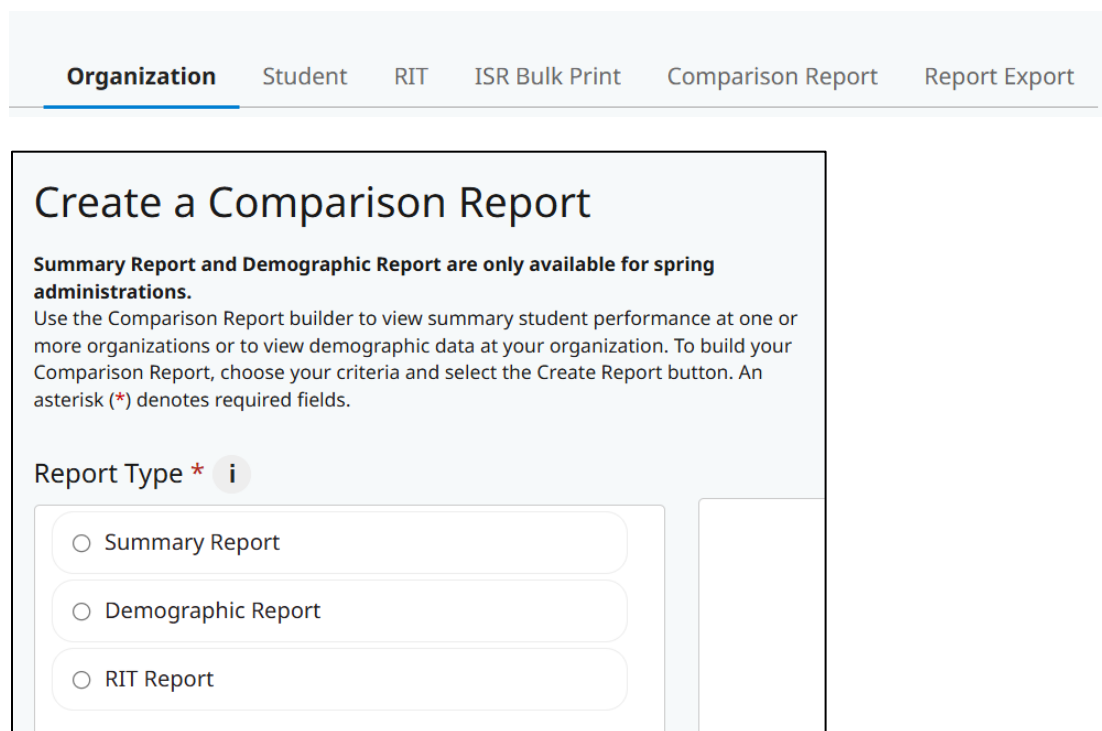
March 18: Last day to run Operational Reports for the winter administration (not including the Student Score Data File)

March 25: Winter 2026 Student Score Data File becomes available

Updates to Acacia User Interface

Upon logging into Acacia, you will notice updated menu labels, button styles, alert notifications, and modal dialogs designed to enhance clarity and provide a more modern interface. These visual improvements align with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and incorporate insights from user research to deliver a more inclusive and user-friendly experience.

In addition, the Report Builder feature is being expanded to allow users the option to more easily bookmark and print reports. At this time, the most significant impact is to the pathway for accessing the Demographic Report. Previously, the Demographic Report was available as its own tab. Users will now access the Demographic Report via the Comparison Report tab.



The screenshot displays the top navigation bar of the Acacia system with tabs for Organization, Student, RIT, ISR Bulk Print, Comparison Report, and Report Export. The 'Organization' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, a modal dialog titled 'Create a Comparison Report' is open. The dialog contains a summary of report availability for spring administrations and instructions on how to use the Comparison Report builder. It features a 'Report Type' section with three radio button options: Summary Report, Demographic Report, and RIT Report. An asterisk (*) indicates required fields, and an information icon (i) is present next to the label.

Organization Student RIT ISR Bulk Print Comparison Report Report Export

Create a Comparison Report

Summary Report and Demographic Report are only available for spring administrations.

Use the Comparison Report builder to view summary student performance at one or more organizations or to view demographic data at your organization. To build your Comparison Report, choose your criteria and select the Create Report button. An asterisk (*) denotes required fields.

Report Type * i

- ☐ Summary Report
- ☐ Demographic Report
- ☐ RIT Report

User guides and manuals are in the process of being updated to reflect the user interface updates.

Requesting Technical Assistance for the Maine Through Year Assessment

SAUs and schools are welcome to request technical assistance for the Maine Through Year Assessment, including but not limited to pre-administration activities in Acacia, building foundational understandings about the assessment structure, interpreting scores, and accessing reports in Acacia and MAP Growth.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate the date/time requested for technical assistance, please be aware that Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as mornings before 8:30 AM are not available due to other commitments that cannot be rescheduled. Generally, virtual sessions are easier to accommodate than in-person sessions due to travel time.

Please reach out to Krista Averill, Maine Through Year Assessment Coordinator, at Krista.Averill@maine.gov, to request technical assistance.

Who do I contact for Maine Through Year Assessment support?

NWEA Partner Support (855) 430-1777 techsupport@nwea.org	Maine DOE MEDMS Support Team (207) 624-6896 MEDMS.Support@maine.gov	Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov
Provides support for: • Technical issues with the Acacia platform • Technical issues with the State Solutions Secure Browser • Technical issues with the MAP Growth platform, including rostering in MAP • Requesting changes to students' chosen names in the Acacia platform	Provides support for: • Updating student enrollment information in Synergy • Updating staff information in NEO	Provides support for: • Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy • Any problems that NWEA Maine Partner Support or the MEDMS Support Team are not able to resolve – <u>If you have a case number (NWEA) or ticket number (MEDMS Support), please provide.</u>

Maine Science Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**
Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or (207) 215-6528.

Spring Administration Dates

High School: April 1 – 17, 2026

Grades 5 & 8: May 11 – 22, 2026

Requesting Technical Assistance for the Maine Science Assessment

SAUs and schools are welcome to request technical assistance for the Maine Science Assessment, including but not limited to building foundational understandings about the three-dimensional nature of the assessment, interpreting scores, and accessing reports in the Kite Reporting Platform. As the spring administration window approaches, available technical assistance will also include pre-administration activities in the ADAM platform.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate the date/time requested for technical assistance, please be aware that Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as mornings before 8:30 AM are not available due to

other commitments that cannot be rescheduled. Generally, virtual sessions are easier to accommodate than in-person sessions due to travel time.

Please reach out to Krista Averill, Maine Science Assessment Coordinator, at Krista.Averill@maine.gov, to request technical assistance.

Who do I contact for Maine Science Assessment support?

Kite Support Desk (855) 277-9752 Kite-support@ku.edu	Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov
Provides support for: • Accessing reports • DACs creating user accounts for other staff within their SAU	Provides support for: • Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy • Creating user accounts for DACs in Kite

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and MSAA Science

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**

Contact Mechelle at: Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov or (207) 242-4244

2025-26 MSAA Test Administration Important Dates

12/1/2025	All students identified for alternate assessment per the IEP must be flagged in Synergy
1/5/2026 – 1/30/2026	Special Education Directors complete Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator Survey
2/17/2026 – 4/24/2026	MSAA Platform open, TC and TA training modules available
3/9/2026 - 4/24/2026	MSAA Administration Window

Helpful Website Links

[Multi-State Alternate Assessment \(MSAA\) | Department of Education](#): The Maine DOE MSAA webpage includes information related to preparing for the assessment, assessment training and security, technical assistance, and assessment reports.

[1% and Maine's Alternate Assessments Based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards \(AA-AAAS\)](#): The Maine DOE 1% webpage holds a wealth of information related to the alternate assessment with links to a variety of resources and topics related to Maine's alternate assessment.

Requesting Technical Assistance for the MSAA & MSAA Science

SAUs and schools are welcome to request technical assistance for Maine’s alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards, the MSAA and MSAA Science, including but not limited to building foundational understandings about alternate academic achievement standards, interpreting scores, and accessing reports within the MSAA Platform. As the spring administration window approaches, available technical assistance will also include pre-administration activities within the MSAA platform for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators.

Although every effort will be made to accommodate the date/time requested for technical assistance, please be aware that Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as mornings before 8:30 AM are not available due to other commitments that cannot be rescheduled. Generally, virtual sessions are easier to accommodate than in-person sessions due to travel time.

Please reach out to Mechelle Ganglfinger, Alternate and English Language Proficiency Assessments Coordinator, to request technical assistance: Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov.

Who do I contact for Multi-State Alternate Assessment support?

MSAA Service Desk (866) 834 8879 MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org	Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 242-4244 Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov
Provides support for: • Account access • Accessing district, school, classroom, and student reports	Provides support for: • MSAA professional learning • Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Dr. Regina Lewis**
Contact Regina at: Regina.Lewis@maine.gov or (207) 530-1355

NAEP 2026

The **NAEP 2026 administration window is January 26, 2026 – March 20, 2026. Scheduled assessment dates are now available in the NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS).** Please return to the AMS and check the banner on the top of the school page to view the assigned date. Schools needing to reschedule the scheduled assessment date should reach out to Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov as soon as possible. If there are no conflicts, please add the date to the school and SAU calendar.

****Priority activities for December.** Principals or school coordinators should confirm access to the NAEP AMS and complete the following:

- *Identify a School Coordinator*
- *Schedule Assessment Planning Meeting with NAEP Field Representatives*
- *Verify whether the students will be assessed using NAEP or school devices*
- *Identify a NAEP App Installer - School Device Schools only*
- *Answer these 2 questions on the Grade Information tile*
 - *When does winter break begin in December?*
 - *When does winter break end in January?*
- *Begin reviewing the list of students selected for NAEP*
 - *Assign accommodations when appropriate*
- *Designate a location for the NAEP assessment*

Upcoming December NAEP activities:

NAEP representatives will contact the designated NAEP school coordinator (or principal) to introduce themselves and coordinate the scheduling of an Assessment Planning Meeting. If a school coordinator has not been designated the principal will be contacted.

- The NAEP representative can provide guidance on completion of the NAEP planning tasks outlined below upon request.
- Reviewing the student sample and identifying students who cannot take the assessment. Providing or updating any demographic information that is missing or inaccurate.
- Providing information about students with disabilities (SD) and English learners (EL) to assist NAEP representatives with assigning the appropriate testing accommodations.
- Please note that school staff may need to assist with certain accommodations (e.g., cueing to stay on task, scribing).
- Notify parents/guardians that their children were selected for the assessment. The parent/guardian notification letter and translations will be available on the [National and International Assessments webpage](#) for you to download and print prior to January 1, 2026. ***Please notify the parents of selected students a minimum of one week prior to the scheduled assessment date.***
- Identify and provide email addresses for the teachers of sampled students so they can access and complete the teacher questionnaire.
- Schedule the assessment sessions and reserve space at your school.
- Provide technical logistics to ensure school devices are ready for the assessment day. Schools participating in NAEP 2026 with school devices may invite a technology coordinator to register for the AMS to assist with technology related tasks.
- Participate in the Assessment Planning Meeting with your assigned NAEP representative. During this virtual meeting, school coordinators will be asked to review and confirm assessment details and information reflected within the AMS.

NAEP has assigned a small number of schools to the NAEP device administration model to examine performance differences based on whether students take the assessment on their own devices or NAEP devices.

The NAEP Application is currently available for installation. The NAEP application installer can be a district level (SAU level) person, but the person must be identified/listed for each school in the SAU for which the app is to be installed by that individual. This person can be identified by the SAU through a streamlined process that eliminates having to list the person on each school's page in the AMS.

NAEP 2026 School Technology Resources

- [NAEP 2026 School Device Technical Requirements](#)
- NAEP 2026 [eNAEP Download Center for NAEP APP](#)

As a reminder, the NAEP 2026 Mathematics and Reading assessments have updated frameworks and new items. Additional new items will be administered via pilot assessments during the 2026 assessment window. **For NAEP 2026 the assessment will be administered using school Wi-Fi when the assessment is administered on school devices.** When NAEP devices are used the assessments will be administered using a NAEP Private Network.

Notable changes for future NAEP administration windows:

- The transition to school devices will include MacOS and iOS devices with the 2028 administration of the NAEP Mathematics and Reading Assessments.
- NAEP will begin the transition to a multi-stage adaptive assessment. Additional information is forthcoming.
- The NAEP 2028 Science assessment will be based on the updated NAEP 2028 Science Framework.

NAEP Resources:

Translations of parent notification letters will be available on Maine DOE [National & International Assessment webpage](#) prior to January 1, 2026

Experience Elements of NAEP

- [NAEP Assessment Tutorials](#)
- [Take NAEP Now Quiz](#)
- [NAEP Survey Questionnaires](#)

2026 Inclusion Policies

- [Maine Students with Disabilities Inclusion Policy Operational](#)
- [Maine English Learners Inclusion Policy Operational](#)
- [Maine Students with Disabilities Inclusion Policy Pilot](#)
- [Maine English Learners Inclusion Policy Pilot](#)

For more detailed information, contextual information collected from the NAEP Questionnaires, or a peak at student performance by assessment subscales, please visit the [NAEP Data Explorer](#). To view items from student assessments or the [NAEP Questionnaires](#) please visit the [NAEP Questions Tool](#), [NAEP Item Maps](#), or the [NAEP Survey Questionnaire webpage](#).

Who do I contact for support related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress?

NAEP Field Representative <i>Contact using information provided in NAEP AMS and via Email</i>	Regina Lewis Maine DOE NAEP Coordinator (207) 530-1355 regina.lewis@maine.gov	NAEP AMS or eNAEP Helpdesk (800) 283-6237 naephelp@westat.com
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Provides support for: • School Delay or closing • Need to reschedule • Change in Assessment Logistics	Provides support for: • AMS account creation • Assessment date change requests • Acquiring AMS access for additional staff • Questions related to assessment accessibility, exclusion, and refusals • Policy related questions • Any problems that NAEP Field Representative and NAEP Helpdesk are unable to answer	Provides support for: - Technical issues with AMS - Password recovery not working - Unable to select or manage tiles - Student name changes - eNAEP Download Center
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WIDA ACCESS, WIDA Alternate ACCESS & WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**
 Contact Mechelle at: Mechelle.ganglfinger@maine.gov or (207) 242-4244

2025-2026 WIDA ACCESS, WIDA Alternate ACCESS, & WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten Important Dates	
11/20/2025 - 2/27/2026	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Registrations
12/11/2025 - 12/12/2025	Districts Receive Test Materials
12/11/2025 - 2/20/2026	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in WIDA AMS
1/5/2026 - 2/27/2026	ACCESS Administration Window
3/10/2026	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC -Postmark date

For additional information pertaining to Maine specific WIDA information please visit: [WIDA Maine State Page](#)

WIDA Secure Portal Trainings

12/2/2025 - Managing WIDA ACCESS Registrations in WIDA AMS 2-3 p.m. ET

12/4/2025 - Managing WIDA ACCESS Test Materials in WIDA AMS 2-3 p.m. ET

12/9/2025 - WIDA ACCESS Test Security and Test Monitoring 2-3 p.m. ET

12/11/2025 - WIDA ACCESS Technology Troubleshooting 2-3 p.m. ET

[WIDA Secure Portal login](#): Access WIDA Webinars via the Webinars page in the WIDA Secure Portal. Login information required.

Maine DOE Webinars

12/1/2025 - Alternate ACCESS: An Overview for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators 3:15-4:15 p.m. ET

12/3/2025 - WIDA ACCESS Grade 4 Writing Response Booklet 3:15-4:15 p.m. ET

***This training is mandatory for SAUs that are electing to utilize grade 4 writing response booklets as a designated support for selected students participating in the WIDA Online ACCESS**

12/15/2025 - Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the ACCESS Assessment 3:15-4:15 p.m. ET

For additional information on these and other Maine DOE professional learning opportunities visit: [Maine Department of Education Events Calendar](#)

Special Request Forms

This year, WIDA will begin providing student reports for participants in Less Than Four Domains (LT4D). For students who qualify for participation and reporting of LT4Ds due to a documented exceptionality, a LT4D request must be submitted by the SAU. The instructions and request can be found here: [Maine DOE English Language Proficiency Assessments](#). Requests must be submitted between 11/20/25 - 2/20/2026.

Who do I contact for support related to the WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 242-4244 Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov	Data Recognition Corps (855) 787-9615 WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com	WIDA Client Services Center (866) 276-7735 help@wida.wisc.edu
Provides support for: • Maine English language proficiency assessment professional learning • Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy	Provides support for: • WIDA AMS accounts • Additional test materials • Student transfer requests • Test tickets and tiers • Accessing reports	Provides support for: • WIDA Secure Portal accounts • WIDA Screener and WIDA ACCESS • Training and certification • Content of score reports • Standards and Can-Do Descriptors