



Maine DOE Assessment Team

Monthly Update, June 2025

Important Resources

Monthly office hours with the Assessment Team

2nd Wednesday of every month, 12-1pm. Registration link here: [Office Hours](#)

Changes in Bulk Email Communications

The MEA and Alternate Assessment email listservs are being discontinued by ME OIT, and the Assessment Team will be transitioning to bulk emails managed through Outlook.

All individuals currently signed up for the listserv email communications will be transferred to the bulk email list; no action is needed on your part.

If you would like to be added to or removed from a bulk email list, please reach out to the appropriate Assessment Coordinator:

- Maine Through Year and Maine Science: Krista.Averill@maine.gov
- Alternate Assessments: Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov

NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

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

Spring Administration: Important Dates

June 2-6: [SAU Data Cleanup Window](#)

Anticipated July 7: Spring 2025 Student Score Data File (SSDF) CSV becomes available for each SAU

Please see the [memo from NWEA regarding preliminary score results](#).

Anticipated July 14: Spring 2025 Individual Student Reports become available

July 31: Last day to pull Operational Reports (excluding SSDF) in Acacia, for example Summary Test Status Report for quick participation calculations

2025-26 Administration Schedule

Fall 2025: September 15 – October 24

Winter 2026: January 5 – February 13

Spring 2026: April 13 – May 29

FAQ: What are the similarities, differences, and purposes of RIT scores and Maine scale scores?

During the spring administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment, students receive multiple types of scores: RIT scores, Instructional Area RIT scores, and Maine scale scores.

RIT Scores

- Purpose: Communicate overall performance in the content area so that comparisons can be made between students and over time
- Generated when a student answers all questions on the fall, winter, and/or spring assessments
- Range: 100 to 350
- Norm-referenced: Reported according to percentiles and quintiles that compare the student to other students nationally
- Longitudinal scale which can be compared across grade levels
- Resource: [RIT to Concept Reference Guide](#)

Instructional Area RIT Scores

- Purpose: Communicate areas of relative strength and relative need
- In Reading, the Instructional Areas are Literary Text, Informational Text, and Vocabulary.
- In Math, the Instructional Areas differ for grades 3-5 and grades 6+. An example Math Instructional Area is Geometry.

Maine Scale Scores

- Purpose: Communicate information about a student's performance according to the most important grade-level standards
- Generated when a student answers the summative questions on the spring administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment
- Range: 1400 to 1600, with 1500 indicated the cut score for At Expectations at each grade level
- Criterion-referenced: Reported according to achievement levels aligned to Maine's grade-level academic content standards
- Grade-specific scale: For example, a third-grade student with a score of 1500 does not demonstrate the same knowledge, skills, and abilities as an eighth-grade student with a score of 1500.
- Resources: [Summative Achievement Level Summaries](#), [Achievement Level Explorer Tool](#), and [Summative Assessment Blueprint Overview](#)

Because the scores are based on different sets of questions within the spring assessment and because the scores serve different purposes, there is not a one-to-one relationship between RIT scores and Maine scale scores.

NEW: Enhanced Item Selection Algorithm

Beginning in Fall 2025, the Maine Through Year Assessment will transition to NWEA's new enhanced item selection algorithm. This new item (i.e., question) selection algorithm has been gradually rolled out to NWEA's MAP Growth and State Solutions partners, and next school year all remaining MAP Growth and State Solutions partners will transition to the new algorithm.

Q: What is the new enhanced item selection algorithm?

A: The item selection algorithm is a key component of the NWEA test engine, responsible for determining the specific question (item) to present to each student next. This algorithm considers a variety of factors and variables in its selection process. These include, but are not limited to, the student's starting RIT score, whether the student answered the previous item correctly, and the difficulty level of the items.

Q: How does the enhanced item selection algorithm choose items differently compared to previous versions of the Maine Through Year Assessment and MAP Growth tests?

A: The primary change to the item selection algorithm is a prioritization of grade-level content. The traditional item selection algorithm emphasized adaptivity and test content without factoring in information about a student's grade.

The enhanced item selection algorithm is designed to prioritize items that are closer to a student's grade level when selecting items on the test. This new algorithm finds an item that is best matched to the student's ability, grade, and the test content needed to fulfill the test blueprints.

How the new algorithm chooses a test item for a 5 th Grade Student					
Student Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade
Are items available at a specific RIT that also match grade level standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The new algorithm gives preference to items that match a student's grade level			1 st Choice		
If there are not any items in the students' grade level, then the test adapts +/- 1 grade level at a time looking for the best item to present		2 nd Choice		2 nd Choice	
	3 rd Choice				3 rd Choice
*Note: This visual is a simplification of how the item selection algorithm works. It is designed to explain how it chooses items that better match the grade level of a student but does not explain a number of other important factors that go into the final selection of an item. This visual is for communication purposes only.					

Q: What are the expected benefits of the enhanced item selection in tests?

A: Educators have often expressed a desire for NWEA diagnostic assessments to be more closely aligned with the material they are teaching. Assessments using the enhanced item selection algorithm will present students with items that more closely reflect grade-level instruction and expectations, enhancing the test's content validity.

In addition, the utilization of the enhanced item selection algorithm will result in more consistency between the fall/winter and spring Maine Through Year Assessment blueprints.

Resource: [MAP Growth EISA overview - 2025](#)

Who do I contact for Maine Through Year Assessment support?

NWEA Partner Support (855) 430-1777 techsupport@nwea.org	MEDMS Support Team (207) 624-6896 MEDMS.Support@maine.gov	Krista Averill (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov
Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determining if a student is eligible for the Maine Through Year Assessment, based on information entered by the SAU into Synergy• Removing duplicate students from Synergy	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, and reporting• Policy-related questions• Any problems that NWEA Partner Support or MEDMS Support Team are not able to resolve – <i>If you have a case number (NWEA) or ticket number (MEDMS Support), please provide.</i>

Maine Science Assessment

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

Important Dates

Anticipated end of August 2025: Spring 2025 individual student and aggregated (school and SAU) score reports become available in the Kite Reporting Platform

Spring 2026 Administration Dates:

- High School: April 1 – 17, 2026
- Grades 5 & 8: May 11 – 22, 2026

Virtual Panelist Opportunity for High School Maine Science Educators

Maine DOE is currently recruiting high school science educators to participate in data review. Please share the following information with educators in your SAU:

Data Review (High School): Monday, August 4, 2025

- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET
- Location: Virtual (Zoom)
- Purpose: Review the statistical performance of questions that were field tested in the spring to ensure that each of those questions is a valid and appropriate measure of the state standard
- Stipend: \$75

If you are interested in this Maine Science Assessment opportunity, please [COMPLETE THIS FORM](#) by June 13.

Post-Administration Questionnaires – Extended Deadline!

Educator and administrator questionnaires provide valuable information about local science education practices. Our aim is to receive a multitude of responses from schools and SAUs across the State of Maine. Please complete the following questionnaires **by June 13**.

- [Principal/Assessment Coordinator Questionnaire](#)
- [Science Department Chair Questionnaire \(High School\)](#)
- [Teacher \(Grades 5 & 8\) Questionnaire](#)

Who do I contact for Maine Science Assessment support?

Kite Support Desk (855) 277-9752 Kite-support@ku.edu	MEDMS Support Team (207) 624-6896 MEDMS.Support@maine.gov	Krista Averill (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov
Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessing reports from Spring 2023 and Spring 2024• DACs creating user accounts	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determining if a student was eligible for the Maine Science Assessment, based on information entered by the SAU into Synergy	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, and reporting• Policy-related questions• Any problems that Maine Science Support or MEDMS Support Team are not able to resolve – <i>If you have a ticket number, please provide.</i>

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

❖ The MSAA Online Reporting Window will be open July 14 – September 5, 2025

Where do I access SAU/school/student reports?

The reports will be accessed directly from the MSAA Platform. Users with Test Coordinator roles in the platform will have the ability to download reports.

If you have difficulty with your MSAA Platform login credentials while trying to access reports, please reach out to the MSAA Service Center. MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org

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

Maine DOE has received the list of SAUs and schools selected for NAEP 2026. The **NAEP 2026 Assessment Window for administration is January 26, 2026 – March 20, 2026**. SAUs and schools notifications will be sent later this month.

Upcoming June NAEP 2026 activities

- SAU and school staff will be invited after Notification Letters have been sent.
- SAU and school users receive registration and login information for the NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS) from naep-ams@naepnpd.org.
- School and SAU OKTA accounts from 2024 have been deleted.
- Multi-factor authentication is required for all users.

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. This transition began with the 2024 administration with participating students successfully completing the NAEP assessments in over 90% of Maine schools using school provided Wi-Fi. SAUs and schools will be required to complete the NAEP 2026 School Technology Survey to determine whether school-managed devices meet the criteria for NAEP administration. Most students at NAEP sampled schools using Chromebooks and/or Windows devices will be assessed using school devices. Additional details will be provided during future Assessment Team Office Hours and supplemental NAEP Office Hours as well as through email communications.

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
Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Delay or closing• Need to reschedule• Change in Assessment Logistics	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AMS account creation• Acquiring AMS access for additional staff• Questions related to assessment accessibility, exclusion, and refusals• Policy related questions	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical issues with AMS• Password recovery not working• Unable to select or manage tiles• Student name changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any problems that NAEP Field Representative and NAEP Helpdesk are unable to answer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eNAEP Download Center
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Notable changes for future NAEP administrations:

- The transition to school devices will include 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.

June 2025 NAEP Nugget:

Did you know that the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) provides informational publications relating the NAEP assessment data and reporting to classroom learning and beyond?

[Powered By NAEP](#) resources are located on the [NAGB website](#). A [recently published edition discussed the findings of the NAEP Civics Assessment](#) related to eighth graders learning experiences and their academic performance. In this [Powered by NAEP brief](#) the NAEP results reveal what students actually learned in their civics classes. These underutilized findings shed light on important topics students need to understand to participate in democratic society.

To explore how eighth graders performed and their related classroom experiences in greater detail, please investigate the [NAEP Data Explorer](#). This valuable tool contains the publicly NAEP reported assessment data as well as contextual data collected through the NAEP Questionnaires.

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](#).

[International Assessments](#)

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

There are no updates regarding International Assessments at this time.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**

Contact Mechelle at: Mechelle.ganglfinger@maine.gov or 207-242-4244

Start Using the Brand-New WIDA Language Charts Today

The WIDA Language Charts are a brand-new resource that can help you understand and communicate the expectations of revised ACCESS for ELLs (WIDA ACCESS), which will be used in the 2025-2026 school year. The charts connect WIDA ACCESS to the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition and make the Proficiency Level Descriptors clearer, more actionable and directly connected to classroom instruction.

Learn how to use the charts in the [new Language Charts article](#) (secure login required).

Featured Resource: Explore Changes Coming to ACCESS in 2025-2026

In case you missed it, WIDA is revising ACCESS for ELLs to incorporate the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition! To help you get ready for the revised ACCESS for ELLs in 2025-2026, WIDA has created two videos:

- Watch **Revising ACCESS: The Impact of the Standards Framework, 2020 Edition** to learn how the standards connect to ACCESS, and the key elements of the 2020 Edition that impact the revised test.
- Check out **Revising ACCESS: Emphasizing Standard 1 in the Listening and Reading Tests** to learn how Standard 1 fits into the WIDA ELD Standards Framework and how it impacts the structure of the Listening and Reading test items on the revised test.

Find both videos and more information on the upcoming changes on the [Revised ACCESS for ELLs Is Coming in 2025-26](#) webpage (secure login required).

Kindergarten ACCESS Training Course Unavailable April 30-September 28

Now that WIDA has completed the Kindergarten ACCESS Field Test, they will redesign the Kindergarten ACCESS training course so that it matches the new assessment, WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring training course will be **unavailable from April 30 through September 28, 2025**. Even though the course will be unavailable, you will still be able to access your existing certificates.

The redesigned WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten: Administration and Scoring training course **will go live on September 29, 2025**. Note: The reason the course gets released a few weeks after other ACCESS courses is because we need this extra time to process hundreds of Speaking and Writing samples from the field test and choose the best ones to add to the course.