



Maine DOE Assessment Team

Monthly Update, May 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

Now: Acacia is open to SAUs for pre-administration activities

For more information on managing staff and student users, including updating student supports/accommodations as well as creating Reporting and Online Testing groups, please see the [User and Student Management Guide](#).

Now – June 6: Acacia – MAP Growth sync is on

Now – May 30: Administration window

For information on accessing test tickets, see the [Manage Online Testing Guide](#).

Administration scripts for proctors are contained within the [Assessment Administration Guide](#).

May 16: Last day to [request a paper-based form](#) for the spring administration

May 23 @ 4:00 PM: Last opportunity to [request an assessment reset](#)

June 2-6: [SAU Data Cleanup Window](#) – Most data cleanup tasks can be started now.

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

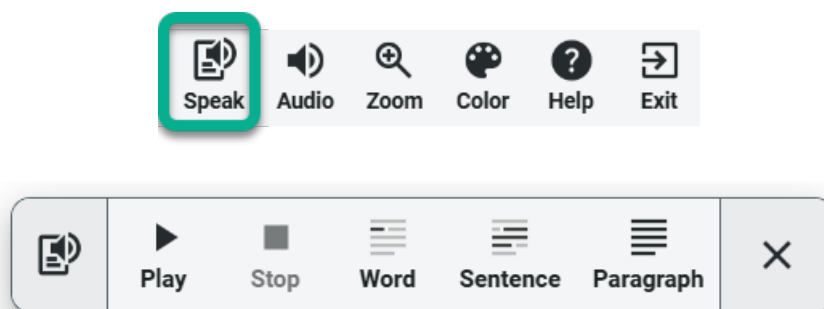
Please see the [memo from NWEA regarding preliminary score results](#).

Anticipated July 14: Spring 2025 Individual Student Reports become available


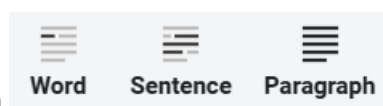
Navigating Text-to-Speech in the State Solutions Secure Browser

Different assessment secure browsers have different text-to-speech tools. Please provide all students utilizing text-to-speech an opportunity to practice using the tool via the Item Type Sampler, available [online](#) and within the State Solutions Secure Browser.

To access the text-to-speech tool, students select the “Speak” icon:



The text-to-speech tool in the State Solutions Secure Browser allows the student to select between

- reading aloud all text on the screen  , or
- selecting a specific word, sentence, or paragraph .

Note: Text-to-speech will not read aloud the reading passages on the Reading assessment.

For more information on designated supports and accommodations for the Maine Through Year Assessment, please refer to the [Accessibility Guide](#).

Mathematics Assessment: Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations

Universal Tools: Provided to ALL Students

- Scrap Paper: Blank, lined, or graph paper, and should not include additional marking, such as axes. Individual erasable whiteboards and AT devices are also acceptable forms of “scrap paper.”
- [Math Reference Sheet](#): Available in the State Solutions Secure Browser and can also be provided as a paper copy. For translated copies of the Math Reference Sheet, please navigate to the *Content* drop-down menu on the [Maine Through Year Assessment webpage](#). Changes to the Math Reference Sheet, including additions, deletions, and edits, are not allowed.

- Calculator: Available in the assessment platform for questions for which they are appropriate (i.e., which do not assess computation); for students accessing a paper-based test in grades 6+, students are provided a calculator for a portion of the assessment
- Graph paper in the online assessment platform: Plots points, line segments, and lines
- Protractor in the online assessment platform: Available for specific questions if necessary for the skill being assessed
- Ruler in the online assessment platform: Available for specific questions if necessary for the skill being assessed

Designated Supports: Provided to Individual Students Based on Need (IEP or 504 Plan NOT Required)

- Mathematical Supports – MUST be consistent with classroom instruction and assessment and MUST be indicated in the student’s profile in Acacia
 - Examples from the [Accessibility Guide](#): Abacus, Number line, Addition chart, Multiplication chart (not allowable for grade 3), Base-ten blocks, Various types of counters, Fraction tiles and pies without numerical labels, Coins, Clock with or without numbers (should not have gears)
 - Examples from Maine Schools: Graph paper with axes lines but no X or Y labels, organizational supports *which do not provide the steps for calculation or problem-solving* (See the image to the right for an example.)
 - Mathematical Supports do NOT change the skill being assessed. **If you are unsure if a particular mathematical tool changes the skill being assessed, please reach out to Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov for clarification.** This determination is made based on the Common Core State Standards and [the standards’ associated achievement level descriptors specific to the Maine Through Year Assessment](#).
 - Math journals are **not** an allowable support.

QUESTION # _____	
SOLVE:	NOTES:
QUESTION # _____	
SOLVE:	NOTES:

Accommodations: For Students with IEPs or 504 Plans ONLY

- Calculator for ALL questions: This is provided by the proctor to the student, not in the assessment platform.

For more information on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for the Maine Through Year Assessment, please refer to the [Accessibility Guide](#).

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

Now: Assessment Coordinators can assign supports/accommodations and access test tickets for students in grades 5 & 8

All students must be assigned to a class (i.e., proctor group) in ADAM. Here are directions for the [Quick Class Upload](#). As enrollments change, you can identify [Unrostered Students](#) in order to add them to classes.

You can also update student supports and accommodations [for an individual student](#) or [in bulk](#) as well as [Create Additional Proctor Groups](#), if needed.

Lastly, [Print Student Assessment Cards \(Test Tickets\)](#).

Now – May 23: Support call center open (M-F) - Toll Free Number: 855-544-0842

May 12-23: Grades 5 & 8 administration window

Administration scripts for proctors are contained within the [Assessment Administration Manual](#).


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

Navigating Text-to-Speech in the ADAM Lockdown Browser

Different assessment lockdown browsers have different text-to-speech tools. Please provide all students utilizing text-to-speech an opportunity to practice using the tool via a [practice test](#).



Note: The text-to-speech tool in ADAM will read alt text for images and other graphics, such as charts and diagrams.

The student may skip the reading of alt text by using the  icon to select anywhere in the text to start reading aloud.

For more information on designated supports and accommodations for the Maine Science Assessment, please refer to the [Accessibility Guide](#).

Virtual Panelist Opportunities for Maine Science Educators

Maine DOE is currently recruiting grade 5 science educators to participate in rangefinding. Please share the following information with educators in your SAU:

Rangefinding (Grade 5): Thursday, July 10, 2025

- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET
- Purpose: Finalize the scoring rubrics and identify exemplar samples of student responses for grade 5 constructed-response questions on the Maine Science Assessment.
- Stipend: \$150

If you are interested in either of these Maine Science Assessment opportunities, please [COMPLETE THIS FORM](#) by May 9.

Reseating Students With "Session in Use" Notification

The Maine Science Support Desk has become aware of a handful of reported instances where students have needed to log in several times (requiring reseating by the proctor) before they could start a session of the assessment. These appear to be isolated cases, though in the schools that have had the issue there are sometimes multiple students who experienced it. Reseating by the standard reseating process has resolved these cases and the students were able to complete their assessments.

Although the affected students may receive a notification upon their first log in that their session is in use and the proctor dashboard may show them as already in progress after their first attempted login, **these students' sessions have not already been opened.**

Indications point to local network disturbance or lower bandwidth causing inconsistencies while logging in. This phenomenon may be more common on MacBook devices. Network causes can also result in students being "kicked out"/ having their session disrupted more than once if the classroom's Internet connection is dropping repeatedly.

Should students receive this notice, they can be reseated by the proctor from the Proctor Dashboard and then either retry their login using the Retry button or by selecting the Exit button and then re-entering their Test Code and student ID number. Proctors should remember to refresh their dashboard after selecting to Reseat individual students from the Action menu ("three dots" menu). Should a proctor choose to use the Reseat All button at the top of the Dashboard, they should be aware that this will disrupt students in the group who are already testing -- who may also then need to log back in to resume their session.

In preparation for the grades 5 and 8 assessment window:

- Double check that devices are updated to the versions of their operating systems supported for the Maine Science Assessment, (<https://mescience.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/29179995868439-Device-and-System-Requirements>).
- Make sure your proctors are familiar with the process for reseating students should an issue arise. ([Proctor User Guide](#))
- Please reach out to the Maine Science Support Desk (<https://mescience.zendesk.com> or 1-855-544-0842) if you encounter any issues.

Who do I contact for Maine Science Assessment support?

Maine Science Support (855) 544-0842 Request Help Button	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"> • Technical issues with the ADAM platform (adamexam.com) or ADAM lockdown browser 	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 is eligible for the Maine Science 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 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 administration window for 2025 closed on April 25th at 8pm.

Many thanks to all Test Coordinators and Administrators who worked to ensure that students had the equitable opportunity to participate.

❖ 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.

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

Sampling for NAEP 2026 is under way. The **NAEP 2026 Assessment Window for administration is January 26, 2026 – March 20, 2026**. SAUs are scheduled to be notified in early June with school notifications to follow shortly thereafter. 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.

Moving forward, **NAEP will be administered using school Wi-Fi when the assessment is administered on school devices**. 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. Additional details will be provided as we move closer to the assessment administration window.

Most students at NAEP sampled schools using Chromebooks and/or Windows devices will be assessed using school devices for the administration of the 2026 Mathematics and Reading Assessments. Students at schools using iOS devices will be assessed using NAEP Chromebooks for the 2026 administration. When NAEP devices are used the assessments will be administered using a NAEP Private Network. Additional details will be provided during future Assessment Team Office Hours and supplemental NAEP Office Hours as well as through email communications.

If you have any questions about the NAEP resources, release of the results, or would like to receive technical assistance related to either, please contact Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov or 207-530-1355.

NAEP 2024 Reporting

The NAEP 2024 Mathematics and Reading results were released as the [Nation's Report Card](#) on January 29, 2025.

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.

April 2025 NAEP Nugget:

Did you know that the National Assessment Governing Board has provided an easy-to-use interactive tool that allows anyone to explore national, state, and district pandemic-era score changes?

Depending on the jurisdiction, grade, and assessment subject, NAEP Scores were plateauing or reclining prior to the pandemic. To investigate how scores changed during the pandemic use the [interactive data tool](#) to explore results.

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 at this time regarding International Assessments.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

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

Important ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS Dates

Score reports are headed your way, and you may be wondering how to read them or how scores are calculated in the first place. Check out this [article from 2024 for a brief reference to scoring](#).

4/30/25

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports posted to WIDA AMS for SAUs

5/16/25 - 5/19/25

Printed Reports Received in Districts

WIDA Resources for Communicating About ACCESS Scores

Secure Login Required

- **Resources for communicating with families:** Use customizable [ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letters](#), available in the same 49 languages as the ACCESS for ELLs Individual Student Report (ISR), to share general information about ACCESS for ELLs, in addition to your state or local policy and test administration information. Include our [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) or [WIDA Alternate ACCESS: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) flyers to help parents understand the ISR.
- **Resources for communicating with your colleagues:** Use the [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide](#) for Score Reports and [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) to explain ACCESS scores to your fellow educators. In addition to providing an overview of the various types of score reports, these resources explain how scores are calculated, and how you can use proficiency level and scale scores to support your students' language growth.
- **Where to find more information:** Visit the WIDA website to read about the [ACCESS scoring process](#) and how [ACCESS scores can support your planning and your students' learning](#). Find state-specific information about scores and score reporting by selecting your state from the member/state page dropdown on the WIDA website.

Any questions or technical assistance needs? Please reach out to [Mechelle Ganglfinger](#), Maine DOE ELP Assessment Coordinator.

Mark your calendar for a Maine DOE Professional Learning Opportunity

Monday, May 19 from 3:15p p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This professional learning opportunity is intended to provide participants with an overview of the interpretation and integration of ELP reports including the following topics: *State and local accountability measures for required progress monitoring of English language proficiency: ESSA & Lau Plans *WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS Score Reports and Interpretive Guides *WIDA family engagement resources & purpose *Maine Department of Education English Language Proficiency Reports *Next steps for data evaluation and prioritization to ensure adequate ELP growth and development for all multilingual learners. Advance registration can be completed by accessing the following [Registration Link](#).

2025 WIDA Annual Conference Registration Opens May 5!

The 2025 WIDA Annual Conference will take place October 27-30, 2025, in Seattle, Washington, under the theme "Igniting innovation for multilingual learners." New, **need-to-know** information is now available on the [WIDA2025 website](#), including a program at a glance and registration rates (look for the Teacher Appreciation Week rate available May 5-11). This year's event also includes a [curated virtual track](#).

Special Consideration Exemption Requests

What is a Special Consideration exemption request?

A Special Consideration is a request for a student to be exempt from participation in a required Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) due to reasons of significant medical emergency.

When can Special Consideration exemption requests be submitted?

This request **must** be submitted within the open assessment window of each specific applicable assessment.

- Maine Through Year Assessment Special Consideration exemption requests can be submitted until May 30.
- Maine Science Assessment Special Consideration exemption requests for Grades 5 & 8 may be submitted May 12 – May 23.
- The windows for submitting a Special Consideration exemption request for the High School Maine Science Assessment, the MSAA, and WIDA ACCESS have passed.

What is a “significant medical emergency”?

This includes long-term hospitalization without access to academics, severe trauma, mental health crisis (student is a danger to self or others), or placement in hospice care. A medical emergency may also include medically fragile students who are not able to participate in *any* academic activity and/or statewide assessment due to a debilitating disease.

What are examples of situations that do **not** meet the criteria for a Special Consideration exemption?

- Family vacations
- Suspensions and truancy
- The presence of a disability, without meeting the requirements outlined above
- The presence of significant medical conditions, without meeting the requirements outlined above
- Placement at an out-of-state school, without meeting the requirements outlined above
- Parent or student refusal

What documentation is required to support the request for a Special Consideration exemption request?

Medical documentation must be from a medically trained professional on official letterhead.

Examples of medical emergency documentation include:

- Medical professional or doctor’s note
- Medical records or narrative from a medical professional explaining the need for exemption
- Admittance to a hospital or other placement

The documentation must provide evidence for one of the criteria for a significant medical emergency:

- long-term hospitalization without access to academics
- severe trauma
- mental health crisis (student is a danger to self or others)

- placement in hospice care
- inability to participate in *any* academic activity and/or statewide assessment due to a debilitating disease
- for students receiving education remotely, inability to participate in *any* in-person instruction and assessment

Documentation from a medical provider that does not provide evidence of a significant medical emergency may not be approved.

How do I submit a Special Consideration exemption request?

[Special Consideration exemption requests are submitted in NEO](#)

Who should I contact with any questions?

Krista Averill, Assessment Coordinator for the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments:
Krista.Averill@maine.gov or 207-215-6528

Jodi Bossio-Smith, Director of Assessment: Jodi.Bossio@maine.gov or 207-530-1462