



Assessment Team Monthly Update May 2026

Connect with the Assessment Team at monthly office hours, held the first Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 12:00 PM. [\[Register\]](#)

To view and register for other Maine DOE professional learning sessions, please visit the [Maine Department of Education Event Calendar](#).

Technical Assistance

SAUs selected for Level Two (2) Technical Assistance were recently notified via email. Drop-in office hours have been added to the calendar on the following dates:

- [May 7, 2026, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm](#)
- [May 19, 2026, 12 noon – 1 pm](#)

A PDF version of the assessment observation is located on the [assessment webpage](#). Please ensure all observations are submitted via Qualtrics by June 5, 2026, and don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require support.

Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

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

Spring 2026 Administration: Important Dates

Date	Task
April 13 - May 29, 2026	Spring 2026 administration window
May 15, 2026	Last day to submit paper-based assessment form requests, including standard print, large print, and braille via the request form .
May 22, 2026 @ 4:00 PM	Last day to request an assessment reset .
May 28, 2026 @ 8:00 PM	Last daily change assessment roster file is generated based on student information in Synergy. Any student demographic updates made in Synergy after this date/time will not appear in Acacia.

Date	Task
May 29, 2026	Last day to roster students in MAP for the transfer of RIT scores from Acacia to MAP Growth reports
June 1-5, 2026	SAU data cleanup window: Checklist of Data Cleanup Tasks (The spring 2026 checklist will become available during the administration window.)
June 5, 2026	Last day to update student support & accommodations in Acacia and fix MAP Growth rostering errors
July 10-17, 2026	Reporting in Acacia will be unavailable starting at 2:00 PM ET on July 10 through July 17 at 3:00 PM ET as NWEA finishes data validation.
July 17, 2026 @ 3:00 PM	Student Score Data File and Individual Student Reports become available in Acacia.
July 31, 2026 @ 3:00 PM	Last day to run Operational Reports (other than the Student Score Data File) for the spring 2026 administration

Pre-Administration Activities and Resources

1. **District and School Assessment Coordinators: Review preparation checklists, participation requirements, and scheduling information.**
Manual: [Assessment Coordinator Guide](#)
2. **Ensure that staff have the appropriate user roles and permissions in MAP/Acacia.**
Note: All staff user roles are managed in the MAP platform.
Manual: [User & Student Management Guide](#)
3. **IF NOT ALREADY COMPLETED THIS SCHOOL YEAR, download the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser onto student testing devices: <https://securebrowser.state.nwea.org/>**
4. **OPTIONAL: Create Reporting and Online Testing groups in Acacia.**
Students can participate in the assessment without the creation of Reporting and Online Testing groups. Reporting groups are necessary, however, for educators to be able to see students' scores in the Acacia platform.
Manual: [User & Student Management Guide](#)
5. **Add student supports/accommodations in Acacia.**
Manual: [Accessibility Guide](#)
Manual: [User & Student Management Guide](#)
6. **Print test tickets in Acacia.**
Manual: [Manage Online Testing Guide](#)

7. **Proctors: IF NOT ALREADY COMPLETED THIS SCHOOL YEAR, watch the required proctor training video, required assessment security webisodes, and sign the MEA Security and Data Privacy Agreement.**

[Maine Through Year Assessment Required Proctor Training Video](#)

Assessment Security Webisodes:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#)

MEA Security and Data Privacy Agreement (Appendix A of the [Assessment Security Handbook](#), available on the [Assessment Security webpage](#))

During the Administration

1. **Proctors: Administer the assessment utilizing the Assessment Administration Guide, including reading all scripts.**

Manual: [Assessment Administration Guide](#)

2. **Assessment Coordinators: Monitor assessment completion via the Online Testing dashboard.**

Manual: [Manage Online Testing Guide](#)

After the Administration

Reports become available in Acacia within 72 hours of assessing. These results are considered preliminary until the final data file is received in mid-July.

REMINDER: Maine Department of Education Text-to-Speech Policy

For the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments, text-to-speech (TTS) is a designated support. All students with text-to-speech or read-aloud accommodations in an IEP, 504 plans, or ILAP **MUST** be assigned TTS for the online assessments.

For other students, **utilization of designated supports is determined on an individual basis by at least two education professionals familiar with the student's performance and supports must be consistent with the student's regular classroom instruction and assessment practices.**

TTS is an approved designated support for students who are offered the opportunity to access text-to-speech and/or read aloud as part of their normal routine during classroom instruction and assessment. Students should be able to navigate assessments independently with confidence, to the greatest degree possible. As a result, the Maine DOE has developed domain-specific word lists that schools can utilize to determine if TTS is an appropriate support for individual students. TTS should be assigned if a student struggles to **decode** two or more words from their grade-level list or any previous grade-level list. If TTS is determined to be an appropriate support, it must be enabled within the assessment platform.

Please note that this policy applies equally to general education students as to special education students who do not have a text-to-speech or read-aloud accommodation in their IEP. In other words, not having text-to-speech or read-aloud as an IEP accommodation does not exclude a special education student from receiving the TTS support on the state assessment.

For the complete domain-specific word lists for each grade level and content area, please see the [Text-to-Speech Guidance for the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments](#).

Note: Word lists are guidance tools and do not indicate which words will appear on specific assessments in spring 2026.

Who do I contact for Maine Through Year Assessment support?

<p>NWEA Partner Support (855) 430-1777 techsupport@nwea.org</p>	<p>Maine DOE MEDMS Support Team (207) 624-6896 MEDMS.Support@maine.gov</p>	<p>Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov</p>
<p>Provides support for:</p> <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 • Requesting changes to students' chosen names in the Acacia platform 	<p>Provides support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating student enrollment information in Synergy • Updating staff information in NEO 	<p>Provides support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2026 Administration

May 11-22: Grades 5 and 8 Administration Window

Pre-Administration Activities and Resources

- 1. District and School Assessment Coordinators: Review preparation checklists, participation requirements, and scheduling information.**

Manual: [Assessment Coordinator Manual](#)

- 2. Establish access to the [ADAM platform](#).**

a. District Assessment Coordinators already have accounts created in ADAM.

b. Accounts from last school year have been retained in ADAM, except for users with duplicate accounts or users at re-organized schools/School Administrative Units.

Optional Training Module Video: [Setting Up Accounts in ADAM](#)

Resource Article: [Create, Edit, and Remove Other ADAM Users](#)

- 3. Download the TestNav lockdown browser onto student testing devices. If applicable, remove the old ADAM lockdown browser.**

Optional Training Module Video: [TestNav Lockdown Browser](#)

Resource Article: [TestNav Lockdown Browser Installation](#)

4. Create classes, or default proctor groups, in ADAM.

Optional Training Module Video: [Rostering](#)

Resource Article: [Quick Class Upload](#) (Recommended Method)

Resource Article: [Update Class Enrollment](#) (Adding Individual Students)

5. Add student supports/accommodations in ADAM.

Optional Training Module Video: [Student Accessibility](#)

Guide: [Accessibility Guide](#)

Resource Article: [Update Individual Student Supports and Accommodations](#)

Resource Article: [Updating Multiple Student Supports/Accommodations at Once](#)

6. Confirm admins and print test tickets in ADAM.

Test tickets become available after students are added to classes, or default proctor groups; please note that there is approximately a one-hour delay between the creation of classes and the availability of test tickets.

Optional Training Module Video: [Preparing for the Administration](#)

Resource Article: [Print Student Assessment Cards \(Test Tickets\)](#)

7. Proctors: Watch the required proctor training video.

[Maine Science Assessment Required Proctor Training Video](#)

8. Proctors: IF NOT ALREADY COMPLETED THIS SCHOOL YEAR, watch the required assessment security webisodes and sign the MEA Security and Data Privacy Agreement.

Assessment Security Webisodes:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#)

MEA Security and Data Privacy Agreement (Appendix A of the [Assessment Security Handbook](#), available on the [Assessment Security webpage](#))

During the Administration

Reminder: Each of the three Maine Science Assessment sessions will **automatically be submitted at 11:59 PM** on the day the assessment starts and after that time the school may not re-open the session. Please develop local administration schedules that provide adequate time for all students, including those requiring extended time, to complete each of the three sessions on the day it starts.

1. Proctors: Administer the assessment utilizing the Assessment Administration Manual, including reading all scripts.

Manual: [Assessment Administration Manual](#)

2. Assessment Coordinators: Monitor assessment completion via the proctor dashboard.

Manual: [Proctor User Guide](#)

Optional Training Module Video: [Proctoring](#)

After the Administration

Reports become available in the [Kite Reporting Platform](#) in early fall.

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	Maine Science Support (855) 544-0842 https://mescience.zendesk.com/hc/en-us
Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing student score reports • DACs creating user accounts for other staff within their SAU 	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy • Creating user accounts for DACs in Kite 	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical issues with the TestNav secure browser • Technical issues with ADAM, the online assessment delivery and management platform • Assistance ordering accommodated, paper-based forms

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 2026 closed on April 24th 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 13 – September 18, 2025

3 school days remaining in the MSAA administration window for 2026. as soon as possible if: is avoidable! However, in the event a student test does become locked, the TA must reach out to the MSAA Service Center to have the test unlocked. The TA must provide the student’s state ID number and the reason the test became locked.

Email: MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account access • Accessing district, school, classroom, and student reports 	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2027

Thank you to all selected schools and SAUs for participating in NAEP 2026. No Maine schools have been selected for participation in this small preparatory study for the larger administration of NAEP 2028 which may include a small number of MacOS devices. NAEP plans to include MacOS and iOS devices for the administration of NAEP 2028.

NAEP Resources:

As a reminder NAEP provides [NAEP Assessment Tutorials](#), released cognitive items as a part of the [Take NAEP Now Quiz](#), and the publicly available optional [NAEP Survey Questionnaires](#) to assist with the communication and understanding of the NAEP experience.

For more detailed information, contextual information collected from the NAEP Questionnaires, or a peek 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](#).

For questions or information about NAEP, please contact:

Dr. Regina Lewis, Maine DOE NAEP Coordinator
(207) 530-1355 regina.lewis@maine.gov

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

4/29/2026	Districts Receive ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data - Posted in WIDA AMS
5/15/26 - 5/18/26	Districts Receive Printed ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports

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

WIDA ACCESS Score Reports/ML Exit Criteria

Following the release of WIDA ACCESS score reports, and considering the revised [ACCESS assessment](#) and upcoming standard-setting process scheduled for July 2026, the Maine Department of Education would like to share the following:

- There are no changes to the ML exit criteria for WIDA ACCESS this year (2025-2026).

As a reminder, Multilingual Learners (MLs) who have attained a Composite Proficiency Level score of 4.5 or greater on the WIDA ACCESS assessment will be assigned, by the Maine Department of Education, a ML Exit Date of 06/30/2026.

Additionally, students who are exited from ML services must be monitored for a minimum of 2 years. For more information, review Administrative Letter 2: [ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER: Legal Requirements to Provide English Language Acquisition Services to Students Who Are Multilingual Learners \(Revised October 9, 2025\) – Maine DOE Newsroom](#)

Additional FYI – 2026 ACCESS Scores ([WIDA Update](#)):

- The ACCESS assessment has been updated, and a standard-setting process will take place in July 2026 to establish new proficiency level cut scores.
- 2026 score reports can still be used to make decisions (including exit and placement) but should be interpreted with caution.
- Scale scores should be treated as a new baseline and should not be compared to prior years.
- Proficiency levels on 2026 reports are based on older cut scores (from 2016) until updated after standard setting.
- Updated guidance and any changes to proficiency expectations will be provided after the standard-setting process is complete (anticipated in 2027).

Please continue to follow this guidance.

If you have questions specific to WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, please contact Mechelle Ganglfinger, ELP and Alternate Assessment Coordinator at Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov

If you have questions about multilingual learner identification and programming, please contact Jane Armstrong, ESOL State Specialist, at Jane.Armstrong@maine.gov

Mark your calendar for a Maine DOE Professional Learning Opportunity

Monday, May 11 from 3:15p p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This webinar will provide information related to English Language Proficiency Data Interpretation with a focus on ACCESS and Alt ACCESS Interpretive Guides for Score reports.

To register for this or other Maine DOE professional learning opportunities visit the [Event Calendar | Department of Education](#) webpage.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maine English language proficiency assessment professional learning• Questions related to assessment content, accessibility, scoring, reporting, and policy	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WIDA AMS accounts• Additional test materials• Student transfer requests• Test tickets and tiers• Accessing reports	Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WIDA Secure Portal accounts• WIDA Screener and WIDA ACCESS• Training and certification• Content of score reports• Standards and Can-Do Descriptors