

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

The Maine Department of Education's new State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) includes a dashboard where SAU leadership can view student data across Maine Educational Assessments! For more information, please join the team at the November Office Hour with Maine DOE Data Warehouse Coordinator Brett Molin.

Assessment Team Office Hour: Wednesday November 5, 12 p.m. [Register here](#)

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](#)

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities with the Assessment Team

Assessment Team Office Hours – 11/5/2025

When Language & Disability Meet – 11/13/2025

English Language Proficiency Dashboard Overview – 11/17/2025

Overview of ACCESS for MLS for New Test Coordinators – 11/17/2025

WIDA Alternate ACCESS for MLs: An Overview – 12/1/2025

To register for these and other Maine DOE PL 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 Dates

November 14: Last day to run Operational Reports for the fall administration (not including the Student Score Data File)

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I interpret the fall-to-spring RIT score growth percentile ranges in MAP Growth reports?

Valuable MAP Growth reports that integrate Maine Through Year Assessment RIT score data, such as the Class, School, and District Profile reports, contain Growth Median and Distribution displays. An example is shown below.

Grade		Number of Students ⓘ
All Grades	Growth Median and Distribution 	233

It is not immediately evident from the display, however, what degree of growth each of the percentile ranges represents. The tables on the next page provide detailed information on the RIT score changes from fall-to-spring that correspond with each percentile range, based on the [2025 RIT score norms](#).

The new norms reflect decreased within-year growth for Reading.

In Math, increased within-year growth can be attributed, in part, to the implementation of the new Enhanced Item Selection Algorithm. The Enhanced Item Selection Algorithm prioritizes on-grade questions when adapting to students' responses, allowing greater measurement sensitivity from fall-to-spring that better reflects students' gains in grade-level knowledge, skills, and abilities. The impacts for the Math assessment include generally lower achievement (i.e., lower RIT scores) in the fall and increased RIT score growth fall-to-spring. This new algorithm was gradually rolled out to various NWEA partners, with all partners nationwide implementing the new algorithm for both MAP Growth and State Solutions assessments by fall 2025.

Reading RIT Score Change Fall-to-Spring

Grade	Low	Low Average	Average	High Average	High
3	$\leq +1$	+2 to +6	+7 to +11	+12 to +16	$\geq +17$
4	≤ -2	-1 to +3	+4 to +8	+9 to +13	$\geq +14$
5	≤ -3	-2 to +2	+3 to +7	+8 to +12	$\geq +13$
6	≤ -4	-3 to +0	+1 to +5	+6 to +9	$\geq +10$
7	≤ -6	-5 to -1	+0 to +4	+5 to +9	$\geq +10$
8	≤ -6	-5 to -1	+0 to +4	+5 to +9	$\geq +10$
10	≤ -9	-8 to -2	-1 to +3	+4 to +10	$\geq +11$

Math RIT Score Change Fall-to-Spring

Grade	Low	Low Average	Average	High Average	High
3	$\leq +8$	+9 to +12	+13 to +17	+18 to +21	$\geq +22$
4	$\leq +6$	+7 to +10	+11 to +15	+16 to +19	$\geq +20$
5	$\leq +3$	+4 to +7	+8 to +12	+13 to +16	$\geq +17$
6	$\leq +3$	+4 to +7	+8 to +12	+13 to +16	$\geq +17$
7	≤ 0	+1 to +4	+5 to +9	+10 to +13	$\geq +14$
8	≤ -1	+0 to +4	+5 to +9	+10 to +14	$\geq +15$
10	≤ -9	-8 to +0	+1 to +9	+10 to +18	$\geq +19$

What is the relationship between a students' RIT score percentile and their achievement level (i.e., Well Below, Below, At, and Above State Expectations) in the spring?

There is no one-to-one correspondence between RIT scores and Maine scale scores, which determine a student's achievement level of Well Below, Below, At, and Above State Expectations. The questions on the assessment that generate the student's Maine scale score in the spring are a subset of the questions that determine a student's RIT score in the spring.

There is a correlation, however, between RIT score percentile bands and whether a student met state expectations (i.e., achieved at the At or Above State Expectations). Below are tables that indicate the likelihood that a student in each RIT percentile band met state expectations in spring 2025, based on the 2020 norms utilized at the time.

**Reading - Students in Each Percentile Band Meeting State
Expectations in Spring 2025 Based on 2020 Norms**

Grade	Low	Low Average	Average	High Average	High
3	None	Some	Many	Most	All
4	None	Some	Most	All	All
5	None	Some	Most	All	All
6	Very Few	Some	Most	All	All
7	Very Few	Some	Most	All	All
8	None	Some	Most	All	All
10	None	Some	Most	All	All

**Math - Students in Each Percentile Band Meeting State
Expectations in Spring 2025 Based on 2020 Norms**

Grade	Low	Low Average	Average	High Average	High
3	None	Some	Many	Most	All
4	None	Some	Most	All	All
5	None	Some	Most	All	All
6	Very Few	Some	Most	All	All
7	Very Few	Some	Most	All	All
8	None	Some	Most	All	All
10	None	Some	Most	All	All

With the change to the 2025 norms in the 2025-26 school year, slight shifts may be observed in spring 2026. For example, given that the 60th percentile for achievement in the 2025 norms represents a lower RIT score than in the 2020 norms, we may see shifts from *all* students in the High Average RIT percentile range meeting state expectations to *most* students in the High Average RIT percentile range meeting state expectations. Maine DOE will continue to monitor the relationship between RIT score percentile ranges and meeting state expectations in spring 2026.

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

12/1/2025	All students identified for alternate assessment per the IEP must be flagged in
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.

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

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 November.*** Principals or school coordinators should answer the three questions below located on the grade information tile. If a school coordinator has not been designated by November 13th, the principal will be assigned as the school coordinator until another person is designated. If the principal wishes to serve in this role, no action is required.

1. How many students are enrolled in grade 4?
2. When does winter break begin in December?
3. When does winter break end in January?

Upcoming December NAEP activities:

In early December, an assigned NAEP representative responsible for administering the assessment will contact the designated NAEP school coordinator 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 review how to complete the NAEP planning tasks outlined below upon request.

- Review the student sample and identify students who cannot take the assessment. Provide or update any demographic information that is missing or inaccurate.
- Provide 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. ***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 amount of schools to the NAEP device administration model to check for 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:

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 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

An Important Message from the Maine Department of Education:

Recently the 2015 U.S. Department of Education's 'Dear Colleague' guidance on English Learners has been rescinded by the federal government. However, the civil rights protections underlying that guidance remain fully in effect. For more information about the obligations and requirements of Maine SAUs to serve students identified as multilingual learners, please visit:

[Multilingual Learners | Department of Education](#)

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

WIDA Secure Portal Trainings

11/4/2025 - WIDA ACCESS Technology Support and Online Preparedness 2-3 p.m. ET

11/11/2025 - WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten for New Test Administrators 2-3 p.m. ET

11/13/2025 - Managing Student Information for WIDA ACCESS Testing 2-3 p.m. ET

11/18/2025 - WIDA Alternate ACCESS for New Test Administrators 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

11/17/2025 - Overview of ACCESS for New Test Coordinators 3:15-4:15 p.m. ET

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**

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 will be uploaded soon. Look for the instructions and request to be found here: [Maine DOE English Language Proficiency Assessments](#). Requests must be submitted between 11/20/25 - 2/20/2026.

Upcoming WIDA-Facilitated Webinars

When Language and Disability Meet: Planning Instruction to Support Dually Identified Students

Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 3:15-5:00 p.m. & Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 3:15-4:45 p.m.

During this workshop, participants will examine ideas that guide, support, and strengthen instructional planning practices for students who are dually identified. Participants will learn about the principles of Universal Design for Learning alongside instructional planning considerations from WIDA's English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework. Participants will explore specific considerations for instruction that support both language development and accessibility and will also examine how collaborative conversations can be framed around student intersections of language and disability to facilitate the communication of information that positively impacts the decisions educators make for instructional planning.

To learn more and register for these or any other upcoming Maine DOE Webinar, please visit: [Event Calendar / Department of Education](#)

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