

Assessment Team Monthly Update

October 2025

[An Important Message from Maine DOE MEDMS Data Support](#)

Synergy will be used for the fall 2025 Data Collection, and updated file upload formats can be found under Student Data Entry on the MEDMS Support Page.

For the full Priority Notice regarding Synergy and the transition to Connect later this year, please visit:

[PRIORITY NOTICE: Synergy to Be Utilized for Fall 2025 Data Collection, Extending CONNECT Transition](#)

[Maine Educational Assessments: General Updates & Resources](#)

- Maine Educational Assessments 2025-26 available via the website and for download:
[Maine Assessment Calendar | Department of Education](#)
- Assessment Team Monthly Office Hours – 1st Wednesday of the month, 12-1 p.m. ET
Next office hour is Wednesday, October 1st! Register for office hours and other upcoming professional learning sessions by the Assessment Team: [Event Calendar | Department of Education](#)

Maine Educational Assessments: Assessment Security Training 2025-26

District and School Assessment Coordinators must:

- Watch the [Assessment Coordinator Security Training](#)
- Read the Assessment Security Handbook, available on the [Assessment Security webpage](#)
- Sign the *Maine Educational Assessment Security and Data Privacy Agreement*, Appendix A of the Assessment Security Handbook
- Complete the applicable assessment-specific trainings
- Ensure that all proctors have received the necessary training

Proctors or assessment administrators must:

- Watch the two, brief assessment security webisodes, available on the [Assessment Security webpage](#)
- Sign the *Maine Educational Assessment Security and Data Privacy Agreement*, Appendix A of the Assessment Security Handbook
- Complete the applicable assessment-specific training

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

Prior to the Administration: SAUs download the latest version of the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser onto student devices ([System & Technology Guide](#))

September 15 – October 24: Fall 2025 administration window

- Assign supports and accommodations ([User and Student Management Guide](#), Part 6, and [Accessibility Guide](#))
- Print test tickets ([Manage Online Testing Guide](#), Part 3)
- Provide all proctors with administration directions and scripts ([Assessment Administration Guide](#))
- Provide proctors accessing the proctor dashboard in Acacia with the [Manage Online Testing Guide](#)

Within 72 hours of assessing: Student results reports become available in Acacia ([Reports Interpretive Guide](#))

- Schools must roster students in the MAP Growth platform in order to have Maine Through Year Assessment RIT scores integrated into MAP Growth reports
 - [MAP Growth Quick Rostering Guide](#)
 - [Maine MAP Growth Reports Portfolio](#)

October 10: Last day to [submit paper-based form requests](#) (standard print, large print, and braille)

- See the [Accessibility Guide](#) for more information on the utilization of paper-based forms.

October 17 @ 4:00 PM: Last opportunity to request assessment resets for Fall 2025 ([Fall 2025 Reset Process Flow](#))

October 23 @ 7:59 PM: Last assessment roster daily change file is generated. Any changes to student enrollments in Synergy after this time will not appear in Acacia.

October 24: Last day to submit a [Special Consideration \(i.e., emergency medical waiver\) exemption](#) request

October 31: Last day of SAU data cleanup window ([SAU Data Cleanup Checklist](#))

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

Reminder About Daily Change Roster File Upload Timing

A daily change file is automatically generated at 7:59 PM each weekday evening and contains all changes in Synergy since the previous daily change file. A member of the Assessment Team manually uploads the daily change file the next weekday morning, excluding state holidays, into the Acacia platform.

Due to the manual nature of the upload process, please wait until 9:00 AM before verifying that students' enrollment updates in Synergy from the previous weekday are reflected in Acacia.

Multilingual Learner Exemption Guidance

Newly arrived multilingual learners may be exemption from the reading assessment (only). Please see the [Multilingual Learner Exemption Guidance](#) for exact US Entry Dates for exemption from the fall and spring assessment administrations.

Scoring & Reporting

Impact of the New 2025 RIT Score Norms

Starting this fall, the Maine Through Year Assessment is using a new set of national norms to help interpret one type of student score, known as the RIT score.

What has not changed about the Maine Through Year Assessment?

The Maine Through Year Assessment continues to consist of three administrations: a required fall administration, an optional winter administration, and a required spring administration. A portion of the spring administration will continue to be used to measure student achievement according to Maine's state academic standards using the Maine scale score. The Maine scale score aligns to an achievement level of Well Below State Expectations, Below State Expectations, At State Expectations, or Above State Expectations. The Maine scale score is not a RIT score, and this measure of student achievement according to Maine-specific state academic standards is not impacted by the change in the RIT score national norms.

What has changed about the Maine Through Year Assessment?

The new national norms will impact the interpretation of the score type known as the RIT score, which is used to compare a student's performance to their same-grade peers nationwide. RIT scores are used for comparisons to other students and for measuring growth across grade levels, not for measuring a student's achievement of state academic standards specific to a grade level.

What does this mean for measuring student performance?

Students' RIT score percentile rankings may look different than before. The percentile represents where the student stands when compared with their peers today--not peers from several years ago. Because student performance has generally declined since the pandemic, the same score may now be associated with a higher percentile.

Additional Resources

- [2025 Norms Toolkit](#)
- **NEW** [2025 RIT Score Norms: A Letter for Families](#): Explains the change in the 2025 RIT score norms within the context of the Maine Through Year Assessment, specifying what has and has not changed as a result of the implementation of the new norms
- [Improved MAP Growth Family Report Download Functionality](#): Will be included in the October System Maintenance software release on October 11-12

Professional Learning Opportunity: Maine Through Year Assessment Fall Interim Reports

Topic: Overview of Maine Through Year Assessment fall interim reports, including the RIT report, dynamic Student report, and Report Export in Acacia, as well as MAP Growth reports

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 15, 12:00-1:00 PM ([Register](#))

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: • Determining if a student is eligible for the Maine Through Year Assessment, based on information entered by the SAU into Synergy • 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

Score Reports

Kite is the reporting platform for the Maine Science Assessment. If you are a District Assessment Coordinator who has not yet accessed Kite for Spring 2025 results and need your account activated, please reach out to Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov.

- [Maine Science Assessment Scoring & Reporting Resources](#)

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 Administration Schedule

Spring 2026: March 9 – April 24

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) 1% Action Plan Webinar

Tuesday October 14, 2025, from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

MSAA: Practical Applications and Uses of Data

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

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

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**. The assessment date assignments are tentatively scheduled to be provided to the schools at the end of this month. Schools needing to reschedule the scheduled assessment date should reach out to Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov as soon as possible. Please reach out to principals at NAEP selected schools to

confirm that they have registered for the assessment management system (AMS) and designated a school coordinator within the AMS.

Thank you to all NAEP 2026 selected SAUs and schools for completing the NAEP Technology Survey. Maine schools achieved a 99% completion rate, which is above the national response rate of 96.6%. Schools should be able to view the model assignment for the upcoming administration at this time. ***For schools designated for school device administration, application installers should be identified in the AMS by December*** to begin receiving instructions for preparing school devices with the NAEP Assessment Application. The eNAEP Download Center notification will be automatically sent to individuals identified in the AMS as the application installer. *Application installers only need to be identified for schools assigned to school devices.*

As a reminder, NAEP is assigning a small number schools with student devices meeting the technical requirements for the administration of NAEP have been assigned 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](#)

Current and Upcoming NAEP 2026 activities

- ***Assessment dates will be provided in late October.***
- *It's time to **designate school coordinators** to serve as the main point of contact for NAEP.*
- SAU and school staff should be registering in the NAEP AMS.
- **The [AMS website](#) and all accounts are new for 2026**
- SAU and school users receive registration and login information for the NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS) from naep-ams@naepnpd.org.
- Multi-factor authentication is required for all users.
- The [eNAEP assessment application](#) is available for installation.

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 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.

October 2025 NAEP Nugget and Resources:

Results from the 2024 Nation's Report Card (NAEP) for 8th grade science and 12th grade math and reading were released on September 9, 2025, at 12:01AM ET at nationsreportcard.gov. The last time students took these assessments was in 2019, prior to the pandemic and its disruption to education. A high-level overview was also provided on the [National Assessment Governing Board website](#).

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
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

International Assessments

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

There are currently no updates regarding International Assessments.

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

Important Dates

11/20/25 - 2/27/26	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Registrations
12/11/25 - 12/12/25	Districts Receive Test Materials
12/11/25 - 2/20/26	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in WIDA AMS
1/5/26 - 2/27/26	Test Window
3/10/26	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](#)

Special Request Forms

For students who require paper-based materials per the IEP or 504 Plan, a Paper Materials Request must be submitted by the SAU. Access the instructions and request here: [Maine DOE English Language Proficiency Assessments](#). Forms must be submitted between 9/1/25 - 10/24/2025.

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

An Important Note: Assessment Participation Requirements at Maine Private Schools

What has changed?

Publicly funded students attending private schools with <60% publicly funded students are not required to participate in the Maine educational assessments.

Please note that all students at private schools with at least 60% publicly funded students remain required to participate in the Maine educational assessments, and all Maine students attending Special Purpose Private Schools remain required to participate in the Maine educational assessments. Schools which are no longer required to participate in the Maine educational assessments are designated as either “Private Sectarian” or “Private Non-Sectarian” under *School Type* in the *All SAUs and Schools* spreadsheet available on the [Schools and SAUs Data page](#).

Why is this change occurring?

In prior years, when updating the [Maine Comprehensive Assessment System Guidelines](#) and other participation resources around state assessments, there were lengthy conversations regarding publicly funded students attending private schools and students attending public schools. Public schools funded by public dollars are required to participate in state assessments and be counted in assessment participation and accountability calculations. This policy was extended to publicly funded students attending private schools. As a result, the required participation of all publicly funded students in the state assessment was included in the guidelines, regardless of attending SAU/school.

However, there is nothing in Maine statute that requires private schools whose enrollment is made up of <60% of publicly funded students to participate in state assessments.

What are the impacts to assessment rostering?

Private schools will continue to have the option of assessing their publicly funded students, and those students will continue to appear in the assessment rosters. This is similar to the presence of partially homeschooled students in the assessment roster, as those students also have the option to assess but are not required to assess.

What are the impacts to the responsible SAU of the potential non-participation of publicly funded students at private schools?

SAU participation data in the ESSA Dashboard will continue to include both students enrolled in schools within the SAU and students who attend schools outside the SAU but for whom the SAU remains responsible.

The non-participation of publicly funded students at private schools with <60% publicly funded students will not be considered in:

- The identification of schools within the SAU for additional support as part of Maine Model of School Supports, and
- The identification of schools or SAUs for targeted technical assistance based on assessment participation.

Responsible SAUs are encouraged to communicate with schools receiving public tuition funds around expectations for assessment participation in return for receipt of those funds.

Who should I contact with questions?

Please reach out to Jodi Bossio-Smith, Director of Assessment, with any questions regarding this change in participation requirements.