

Alternate Assessment Timeline

Timeline	Maine Department of Education Action	SAU Action	Deadline for Completion
7/14/25 - 9/12/25	Online reporting window for Spring 2025 Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) English language arts and mathematics, and MSAA Science.	Test Coordinators (TC) download district, school and student level reports from the MSAA System. Share student reports with families.	9/12/25
9/10/25 12-1 p.m.	<u>Alternate Assessment (AA-AAAS) Office Hours</u>	To register for the training, please visit: Alternate Assessment Office Hours To see a full listing of all Maine DOE professional learning opportunities, please see the Event Calendar Department of Education	9/10/25
9/17/25	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> 1% - Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments (AA-AAAS) Webinar 3:15-4:15 p.m.	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: 1% - Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments	9/17/25
10/6-10/10/25	Maine SAUs exceeding the 1% cap on alternate assessment participation in Spring 2025 will receive action plan template from Maine DOE.	Complete the plan template. Incorporate any action steps or feedback into future planning for local training.	12/19/25
10/15/25	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> MSAA: 1% Action Plan Training Webinar 3:15-4:15 p.m.	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: MSAA: 1% Action Plan Training	10/15/25
10/22/25	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data 3:15-4:15 p.m.	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data	10/22/25
12/1/2025	All students who are identified as alternate assessment participants per the IEP must be accurately flagged in Synergy and/or Connect (if applicable) prior to this date. Students not identified as alternate participants are required to participate in the general assessments (Maine Through Year Assessment).	Communicate with local data manager, administrative assistant or appropriate colleague to confirm that all students who are eligible for alternate assessment participation via the IEP have been accurately flagged in Synergy State Edition.	
1/5/26	Maine DOE shares Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator (TC) Survey with Special Education Directors.	Please complete the 1-minute survey to identify who will be serving as the MSAA Test Coordinator for your SAU in Spring 2026.	1/30/26
1/21/26	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators (TCs)	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment TCs	1/21/26

	3:15-4:15 p.m.		
1/26/26	Notification and Development of Participation Action Plans for SAUs not meeting participation thresholds as outlined in the Technical Assistance Plan Booklet found on the Maine Comprehensive Assessment System (MECAS) Department of Education Technical Assistance webpage	30-minute Virtual Technical Assistance Meetings will be held during the following dates/times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, February 24: 10 AM-3 PM • Friday, February 27: 10 AM - 3 PM • Monday, March 2: 11 AM -4 PM • Thursday, March 5: 10 AM - 4 PM • Friday, March 6: 10 AM - 4 PM 	3/6/26
2/4/26	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Administrators (TAs) 3:15-4:15 p.m.	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Administrators	2/4/26
2/17/26	MSAA System goes live for Spring 2026. Maine DOE will create the SAU Test Coordinator accounts within the MSAA Platform.	TCs (from the completed survey) will receive emails from the MSAA System with initial login instructions. TCs can create Test Administrator (TA) accounts beginning 2/17/26. Information about creating TA accounts can be found in the Test Coordinator user guide. To view or download this guide please visit the MSAA Assessment Homepage	4/24/26
2/25/26 and 3/3/26	<u>Maine DOE Webinar</u> MSAA Early Stopping Rule Webinar Required for all SAUs or SPPSs with Early Stopping Rule Misadministration	For more information and to register for the training, please visit: MSAA Early Stopping Rule Webinar - 2/25/26 MSAA Early Stopping Rule Webinar - 3/3/26	
2/17/26	MSAA Training Modules for TCs and TAs will become available in the MSAA System.	All TCs and TAs must complete the required training modules, including the end of series quiz with a qualifying score of 80% or higher. TCs who are also serving as TAs <u>do not need to complete both</u> the TA and TC training module series; they can focus on the TC modules plus module 5 of the TA training and the MSAA Science training modules.	Prior to 4/24/26
3/9/26	MSAA Administration Window English language arts, math, and science Maine DOE remains available to support SAUs as needed.	MSAA Administration Window English language arts, math, and science TAs report any assessment irregularities or security issues to the district or school TC. TCs report to the State Assessment Coordinator as may be appropriate. TCs ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local schedule has been developed 	4/24/26

	Mechelle Ganglfinger, Assessment Coordinator mechelle.ganglfinger@maine.gov Cell: 207.242-4244	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students have access to sample/practice items within the platform and applicable accessibility features • Each student has completed all required assessments • All assessment sessions are submitted by 5pm on 4/24/26 	
7/13/26 - 9/18/26	Online reporting window for 2026 MSAA and MSAA Science. Maine DOE will send an email to all Special Education Directors and MSAA Test Coordinators from spring 2026 with instructions for downloading reports.	TCs download district, school and student level reports from the MSAA System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share student reports with families. 	9/18/26

MSAA Professional Learning Schedule for the 25-26 School Year

Several professional learning opportunities related to the MSAA have been developed for the 25-26 school year. Please see descriptions provided below and use the registration link to pre-register for any of these virtual webinars you would like to attend.

To see a full listing of all Maine DOE professional learning opportunities, please see the [Event Calendar | Department of Education](#)

1% - Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments (AA-AAAS)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Presentation Description: Participants will gain an understanding of the 1% cap (the why and what for), how to use the Participation Guidelines and guidance for identifying AA-AAA students, and student IEP considerations when making assessment determinations.

Intended Audience: IEP Case Managers, Special Education Teachers, Special Education Administrators, and School Principals

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Registration Link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/TvUhXavVQ8e2d7II5XdP2A>

MSAA: 1% Action Plan Training

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

Presentation Description: Participants will gain understanding of what is ESSA's cap on alternate assessment participation and the 1%, what are the requirements of SAUs that exceed the 1% threshold, what percentage of Maine students participate in alternate assessments and the why of an action plan? A discussion on what action planning entails will be provided?

Intended Audience: Special Education Directors, Assistant Special Education Directors, SAU Level Administrators, and School Principals

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Registration Link: https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/xEaLWQc6RFu_mZMIGbhp_w

MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data

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

Presentation Description: Participants will be provided an overview around Maine's Alternate Assessments, including what is being measured and how the data can inform instructional planning and conversations with families.

Intended Audience: Special Education Teachers, Regular Education Teachers, IEP Case Managers, School Principals, Special Education Administrators, and Related Service Providers

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Registration Link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/c1nLu9fHTOuJE4OsSQ1whw>

MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators (TCs)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Presentation Description: Test Coordinators will develop understanding of the various components of the MSAA and MSAA Science and will gain an understanding of the responsibilities of the Coordinator before, during and after assessment.

Intended Audience: MSAA Test Coordinators and Special Education Directors

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Registration Link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/fu6jgytOTiaWmrHo7hi09Q>

MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Administrators (TAs)

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Presentation Description: Test Administrators will develop understanding of the various components of the MSAA and MSAA Science. TAs will learn the responsibilities of the TA before, during and after assessment. Participants' questions related to administrative tasks and platform features will be addressed.

Intended Audience: MSAA Test Administrators

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Registration Link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/ryHQ5p16QDegVOOl8ErXBg>

MSAA Early Stopping Rule

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:15-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Presentation Description: TCs will gain an understanding of what the early rule is, when the early stopping rule can be applied, and the process that must be followed in order to apply the early stopping rule.

Intended Audience: MSAA Test Coordinators and Special Education Directors

Presenters: Mechelle Ganglfinger, Leora Byras

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:15-4:00 p.m.

Registration Link: https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/BSHA_EShT8WnyLTh-PM5Rw

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Registration Link: https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/_8OHGPcRRU2xjBQ5VOePLw