



Maine DOE Assessment Team

Monthly Update, September 2024

Dear Colleagues in Maine Education,

As we head into the new school year, the Maine DOE Assessment Team remains focused on inclusion and participation in state assessments for **all** students. The Maine Inclusive Education Framework Steering Committee's current working definition of inclusion indicates: *"Diverse and individualized student needs are met in ways that support belonging, foster meaningful relationships with peers and staff, and provide equitable access and active participation in the general education curriculum and all other aspects of the school community."*

As part of technical assistance to the field, this team is working to support inclusion and participation by increasing assessment literacy across Maine – for educators, families, constituents and students. Assessment literacy is the understanding of **what** is being measured, and **how** that data can be used to improve outcomes for students.

We look forward to connecting with you throughout this school, via Office Hours, assessment trainings, and technical assistance opportunities. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out – the Assessment Team is here to help.

Sincerely,

Jodi Bossio-Smith, Director of Assessment

[Updated Resources for SY2024-2025](#)

- **Monthly office hours with the Assessment Team**
2nd Wednesday of every month, 12-1pm. Registration link here: [Office Hours](#)
- **Assessment technical assistance available to Maine SAUs/schools upon request**
The request form is linked here: [SAU Request for Assessment Technical Assistance](#)
- **Updated assessment guidance documents**
 1. Maine Comprehensive Assessment System Guidelines 2024-2025 linked here: [MECAS Guidelines](#)
 2. Assessment Technical Assistance Plan 2024 -2025 linked here: [Technical Assistance](#)
 3. Assessment Security Handbook 2024-2025 and resources linked here: [Assessment Security](#)

4. SY2024-2025 Assessment Calendar can be found below and is also linked here: [Maine Assessment Calendar | Department of Education](#)

Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) 2024-2025		
Assessment Name	Assessment Dates	Required Participants
English Language Proficiency (ACCESS for ELLs)	1/6/25 – 2/28/25	English learners K-12
English Language Proficiency (Alternate ACCESS for ELLs)	1/6/25 – 2/28/25	English learners in Grades K-12 with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
Mathematics & Reading (Maine Through Year Assessment)	Fall (Required): 9/16/2024 – 10/25/2024 Winter (Optional): 1/6/25 – 2/14/25 Spring (Required): 4/14/25 – 5/30/25	Student in Grades 3-8, & 2 nd year of High School
Maine Science Assessment	Grades 5 & 8: 5/12/25 – 5/23/25 High School: 4/2/25 – 4/17/25	Grades 5, 8, & 3 rd year of High School
Mathematics & ELA/Literacy Alternate Assessment (MSAA)	3/10/25 – 4/25/25	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 3-8, and 3 rd year of High School
Science Alternate Assessment (MSAA Science)	3/10/25 – 4/25/25	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 5, 8, and 3 rd year of High School
National & International Assessments		
Assessment Name	Assessment Dates	Required Participants
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	1/2026 – 3/2026	Mathematics and Reading Grades 4, 8, & 12 Science Grade 8
Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS)	N/A	International Survey of principals and teachers at grades 7, 8, and 9.
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Field Test	N/A	Math, Reading, and Science age 15
International Computer Literacy & Information Literacy Study (ICILS)	N/A	Grade 8, Computer & Information Literacy at sampled schools
Progress in International Reading Literacy (PIRLS)	N/A	Grade 4 Reading Achievement in literary experience and reading to acquire and use information at sampled schools
Trends in Mathematics & Science Study (TIMSS)	N/A	Grades 4 & 8 Mathematics & Reading at sampled schools

Important General Reminders

- ✓ **Keep student enrollment data up to date!** Enrollment data in Synergy is utilized to populate the NEO, assessment reports, add students to the assessment platforms, etc.
- ✓ **Keep staff data up to date in NEO** – Teams and offices across the Maine DOE utilize the SAU contact information in NEO when sending out targeted information about upcoming events and trainings.
- ✓ **Do you have challenges with Synergy, NEO, or just have a data-related question? The MEDMS Helpdesk is here to help: medms.helpdesk@maine.gov or (207) 624-6896**

Hours:

Mon - Wed: 8am - 4pm

Thursday: 8am - Noon

Friday: 8am - 4pm

NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

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

Spring 2024 RIT Score Recalculation

On August 22, 2024, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) posted a Priority Notice regarding the recalculation of spring 2024 RIT scores from the Maine Through Year Assessment: [Spring 2024 RIT Score Information](#).

All student reports containing RIT score data were impacted by the rescoring, including the RIT report, dynamic Student Report, and Individual Student Report in Acacia as well as all MAP Growth reports.

Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

Per the Every Student Succeeds Act, schools are required to distribute a report of student performance according to grade-level state standards, and that report must be uniform across the State of Maine. The Individual Student Report (ISR) in Acacia meets the requirements defined by federal statute, and all schools are required to distribute ISRs to students' families.

For spring 2024, the Individual Student Report has been modified to only one page, removing references to Instructional Area RIT scores. SAUs are required to distribute the Individual Student Report to families in addition to a supplemental page that provides contextual information regarding specific skills being measured at that grade level. The supplemental page must be provided with the one-page ISR as it is replacing the information about specific skills being assessed previously contained within the Instructional Area descriptions on page 2. You can access the supplemental pages for families on the Maine Through Year Assessment webpage under the *Individual Student Report (ISR) Templates* drop-down menu. Translations of the supplemental page for each grade level will become available early to mid September.

If the school/SAU previously provided other reports on student performance from either the MAP Growth or Acacia platforms, the Individual Student Report (ISR) still must be distributed to families with the supplemental page.

Please direct all questions regarding the rescoring to Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov.

Fall 2024 Administration

The Fall 2024 Through Year Assessment administration window is September 16 through October 25.

Acacia opens for pre-administration activities on September 3. Students were first rostered in Acacia on August 30, with daily change files running each business day through the end of the administration window. Students must be enrolled in Synergy in order to be reflected in the school's roster in Acacia. It is the responsibility of the SAU/school to ensure that students are enrolled in Synergy before the first day of the local administration schedule. The local administration schedule can occur at any time within the six-week state administration window, although it is strongly recommended to reserve the last week of the state window for make-up sessions.

Device Preparation

Download the most recent version of the [State Solutions Secure Browser](#). Older versions will need to be uninstalled prior to installation of the new version.

- [The Maine Through Year Assessment System and Technology Guide](#)
- [August 2024 Bulletin - Scrollbars iOS and macOS devices](#)

Preparation of Assessment Coordinators

Assessment Security Training

This school year, the 30-minute, synchronous assessment security training for District and School Assessment Coordinators has been replaced by an [asynchronous training video](#). After watching the video and reviewing the Assessment Security Handbook, the Assessment Coordinator will sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement, Appendix A in the [Assessment Security Handbook](#).

Maine Through Year Assessment: Assessment Coordinator Training

This school year, the 90-minute, synchronous assessment coordinator training for the Maine Through Year Assessment has been replaced by an asynchronous training module.

On August 26, all District Assessment Coordinators, as identified in NEO, received an email from NWEA outlining how to access the Assessment Coordinator Training. District Assessment Coordinators who did not receive this email, as well as School Assessment Coordinators, will need to request access to the training module by utilizing [this form](#).

The training module must be completed by the District and School Assessment Coordinators prior to the local administration of the fall assessment; after successful completion of the module, coordinators will download a certificate of completion to keep on file.

Representatives from NWEA's technology & operations team and/or program management team will be present at the September 11 Assessment Team Office Hour to answer your questions regarding pre-administration activities in the Acacia platform.

Preparation of Proctors

Assessment Security Training

Proctors are required to watch two assessment security trainings once per academic year:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#) (5 minutes)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#) (3 minutes)

MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement

Proctors are required to sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement once per academic year. The agreement is found in Appendix A of the [Assessment Security Handbook](#).

Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video

Proctors of the Maine Through Year Assessment are required to watch the [Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video](#) (9 minutes) once per academic year.

Virtual Educator Panel: High School Content & Bias Review

Maine DOE and NWEA are seeking education professionals to participate in the virtual high school content & bias review educator panel.

- **Purpose:** To review questions to ensure assessment material in math and reading is appropriate, free of bias, and aligned to Maine's accountability standards, the Common Core State Standards
- **Dates:** October 22-24, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual, link will be provided by NWEA
- **Stipend:** \$525, includes attendance at all three evening virtual sessions, as well as 8-12 hours of pre-work (\$100 for each virtual evening session and \$225 for completion of pre-work)

If interested, please complete [this registration form](#). Maine DOE and NWEA will begin the process of approving and notifying applicants during the first week of September, and the process will continue until sufficient numbers of participants and alternate participants have been identified.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Understanding Scores from the Maine Through Year Assessment

Participants will learn about the two score types produced by the Maine Through Year Assessment, RIT scores and the Maine scale score, including their similarities, differences, and uses. Opportunities for Q&A will be provided, and participants may submit their questions prior to the session.

- Tuesday, September 24: 3:30-5:00 PM ([Registration Link](#))
- Thursday, October 10: 3:30-5:00 PM ([Registration Link](#))

NWEA Professional Learning Opportunities

Maine DOE and NWEA have developed several professional learning (PL) opportunities for the 2024-25 school year. Below are the offerings for this fall. Visit the [NWEA PL registration website](#) for more information.

*Balanced Assessment Systems for Leaders** ([Registration Link](#))

- Session 1: What are the main definitions and attributes of an effective, balanced assessment system?
 - September 17, 3:30-4:30 PM
 - September 18, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

- Session 2: What are best practices for comprehensive assessment planning and improving student outcomes?
 - October 7, 3:30-4:30 PM
 - October 16, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

*Student-Centered Assessment Literacy** ([Registration Link](#))

- Session 1: What is assessment literacy? What helps make assessment processes and practices matter to students?
 - November 12, 3:00-4:30 PM
- Session 2: Which structures and strategies support a culture of learning? How do you use classroom assessment tools to build assessment literacy?
 - November 14, 3:00-4:30 PM

Using Achievement Level Descriptors to Ensure Classroom Rigor ([Registration Link](#))

- October 17, 3:00-4:30 PM

Triangulating Data for Instructional Insights ([Registration Link](#))

- October 15, 3:00-4:30 PM

*Participants may attend either session or both sessions. Attendance at session 1 is not necessary for attendance at session 2.

Maine Science Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Krista Averill

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

Student Score Reports

Spring 2024 SAU, school, and student reports will be available in mid-October 2024 in the [Kite Reporting Platform](#).

Looking Ahead to Spring 2025

Administration Schedule: The high school administration window has been moved earlier in April to avoid an overlap with AP exams.

- High School: April 2-17, 2025
- Grades 5 and 8: May 12-23, 2025

Changes to the Administration

- ALL Grade Levels: Removal of Session 4 (Student Questionnaire)
- High School ONLY: Sessions 1, 2, and 3 reduced from 60 minutes each to 50 minutes each
 - There will be no change in the number of questions.
 - Spring 2022 and 2023 data reflect that nearly all high school students without extended time complete each session within 50 minutes.

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and MSAA Science

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**

Contact Mechelle or 207-242-4244

Spring 2024 Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) Reports Available July 15, 2024 – September 6, 2024

District, school and student reports for the in math/ELA/science are now available for download within the [MSAA System](#). MSAA Test Coordinators will need their MSAA login information to access and download these reports. If there are additional or new personnel within your SAU who will require access to the results data, Test Coordinators will need to establish a new Test Coordinator account with the appropriate permissions (SAU or School level) within the platform.

MSAA Parent Guides by Grade Level are now available.

Parent Guides and can be found under the Maine DOE MSAA assessment reports tab: [MSAA Parent Guides](#). These family resources provide an overview of the assessment, the important of academic instruction, potential instructional supports, and ideas for collaboration between families and teachers. This resource for parents and families of students eligible for the MSAA is designed to support knowledge and understanding of what is being measured and how the data can be used to improve student outcomes.

Alternate Assessment Listserv

The Alternate Assessment Listserv has been established to provide improved communications related to Maine's Alternate Assessments administration, accommodations, instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and other associated issues. If you would like to sign up to be on Listserve please do so through the following link: [Join the ALternate Assessment Mailing List](#)

Guidance Document for IEP Teams on Participation Decisions for Maine's Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AA-AAAS)

The Guidance for IEP Teams on Participation Decisions for Maine's Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AA-AAAS) [Participation Guidance for IEP Teams](#) has been recently updated. This document is intended to outline steps to guide Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams to determine whether an alternate assessment is the most appropriate assessment for an individual student. These steps include:(a) reviewing student records and important information across multiple school years and settings (e.g., school, home, community), and (b) determining whether the student fits all criteria for participating in alternate assessments, as outlined in the document. Students deemed eligible will participate in an alternate assessment in all content areas. Please note that this resource document which is linked in the Special Education Procedural Manual has not been updated. Please refer to this updated document: [Participation Guidance for IEP Teams](#)

SY2024-2025 Alternate Assessment Timeline

With the start of the new school year approaching, it is important to keep this year's MSAA administration dates in mind. Please refer to the [SY2024-2025 Alternate Assessment Timeline](#) to make sure you stay on track as the year progresses.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

1% - Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments (AA-AAAS): Thursday, September 19, 2024, 3-4pm

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.

Registration: [1% - Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments \(AA-AAAS\)](#)

MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data for SPPSs: Monday, September 23, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm

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

Registration Link: [MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data for SPPSs](#)

MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data for Teachers: Thursday, September 26, 2024, 3-4pm

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

Registration Link: [MSAA: Practical Applications and Intended Uses of Data for Teachers](#)

MSAA: 1% Action Plan Training: Thursday, October 10, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm

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 percent of Maine students participate in alternate assessments and the why of an action plan? A discussion on what action planning entails will be provided?

Registration Link: [MSAA: 1% Action Plan Training](#)

MSAA Training for SPPS Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators (TC's): Monday, November 7, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Presentation Description: TCs will develop understanding of the various components of the MSAA and MSAA Science, as well as the responsibilities of the Coordinator before, during and after assessment.

Registration Link: [MSAA Training for SPPS Alternate Assessment TCs](#)

MSAA Training for SPPS Alternate Assessment Administrators TAs

Monday, November 14, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Presentation Description: TAs 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.

Registration Link: [MSAA Training for SPPS Alternate Assessment Administrators \(TAs\)](#)

MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators (TCs)

Monday, November 18, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Presentation Description: TCs 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.

[Registration Link: MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment TCs](#)

MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment Test Administrators (TAs)

Monday, January 13, 2025, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Presentation Description: TAs 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.

[Registration Link: MSAA Training for Alternate Assessment TAs](#)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Dr. Regina Lewis**

[Contact Regina](#)

NAEP 2024 Reporting

The NAEP 2024 results release will be delayed due to the additional analyses required by the transition to school Wi-Fi. At this time, the NAEP 2024 results are tentatively scheduled to be released in early February 2025. In addition, analyses of the new eNAEP assessment platform as well as the comparison of the administration of NAEP 2024 on Chromebooks with the administration of the assessment on Microsoft Surface Pro tablets used in the previous computer-based administrations of NAEP.

If you have any questions about the NAEP 2024 administration or the upcoming release of the results, please contact Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov or 207-530-1355.

Notable changes for future NAEP administrations:

- The transition to school devices will begin with the 2026 administration of the NAEP assessments. Schools with Windows and/or Chrome based devices will administer the NAEP in a similar manner as other state assessments.
- The NAEP 2026 Mathematics and Reading assessments have updated frameworks and new items. More details on the updated frameworks will be provided as the transition approaches.
- The NAEP 2028 Science assessment will be based on the updated NAEP 2028 Science Framework. The Framework describes the knowledge and skills students should be able to demonstrate in physical, life, and earth and space sciences in grades 4, 8, and 12 in order to keep pace with the evolving field K-12 science instruction and assessment. One goal of the framework is to provide a better understanding of students' knowledge and skills in this vital subject for policymakers, school and district leaders, educators, families, and other education stakeholders.

International Assessments

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Dr. Regina Lewis**

[Contact Regina](#)

What's up and coming with the International Assessments:

U.S. not participating in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) will be administered around the world in 2026. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which oversees the administration of PIRLS in the United States, is not currently planning to participate in the next administration for budgetary reasons. For additional questions, please contact Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov

Calendar Events for 2024 International Assessments

- TALIS Data Collection (Spring)
- PISA Financial Literacy Release of Results (Spring)
- PISA Field Test (Spring)
- PIAAC Release of Results (Winter)
- TIMSS Release of Results (Winter)
- ICILS Release of Results (Winter)

ACCESS for MLs and Alternate ACCESS for MLs

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**

[Contact Mechelle](#) or 207-242-4244

Upcoming Reporting Dates

9/13/24	WIDA Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data Files Available- Online in WIDA AMS
10/2/24	WIDA Alternate ACCESS Reports Available in District-Printed
12/12/24	SAU Central offices receive ACCESS materials shipments for the 2025 SY administration
1/6/25-2/28/25	ACCESS Administration Window

WIDA Webinar: ACCESS for New Test Administrators

Join WIDA **Thursday, September 12 at 2:00pm-3:00pm ET** for an assessment webinar for new Test Administrators. This webinar provides information on preparing to administer WIDA ACCESS suite of assessments. This webinar is designed for new test administrators.

WIDA Webinar: ACCESS for New Test Coordinators

Join WIDA on **Tuesday, September 17 at 2:00pm-3:00pm ET** for an assessment webinar for new Test Coordinators. This webinar provides information on how to create WIDA user accounts, monitor test administrator training completion, and use WIDA AMS.

Your WIDA Secure Portal login will be required to login to the WIDA Webinars. Once logged in, navigate to the Webinars tab to join the meeting. For assistance in logging into the secure platform please contact:

Maine DOE Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Overview of ACCESS for MLs, New Test Coordinators (all are welcome): Monday, October 21, 2024, 3-4pm

Presentation Description: Participants will be provided an overview of WIDA Alternate ACCESS including scheduling, basics of administration, and review of training resources.

[Registration Link: Overview of ACCESS for MLs for New Test Coordinators](#)

Alternate ACCESS for MLs: An overview - Monday, October 28, 2024, 3-4pm

Presentation Description: Participants will be provided with information on how to create WIDA user accounts, monitor test administrator training completion, use WIDA AMS, and how to administer the WIDA ACCESS assessment.

[Registration Link: Alternate ACCESS for MLs: An overview](#)

Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the ACCESS Assessment: Monday, December 2, 2024, 3-4pm

Presentation Description: Participants will be provided with guidance on the selection and administration of Administrative Considerations, Universal Tools, and Accommodations available on the ACCESS assessment.

[Registration Link: Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the ACCESS Assessment](#)