



Assessment Team Monthly Update

September 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](#)

September is Attendance Awareness Month!

In 2024, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) launched the [Maine Engagement and Attendance Center](#) (MEAC) to address chronic absenteeism through various partnerships, data-driven strategies, and the expertise of Maine's education workforce. Regular attendance is essential for student success, and each day counts! This month MEAC is joining schools and communities across the nation to emphasize the importance of showing up.

As part of this initiative, Maine DOE is looking to share success stories from SAUs and schools related to improved attendance and engagement. Please consider filling out the [form](#) to share your story and inspire others statewide!

[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, September 3rd! 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

Changes in Bulk Email Communications

The MEA and Alternate Assessment email listservs are being discontinued by ME OIT, and the Assessment Team will be transitioning to bulk emails managed through Outlook.

All individuals currently signed up for the listserv email communications will be transferred to the bulk email list; no action is needed on your part.

If you would like to be added to or removed from a bulk email list, please reach out to the appropriate Assessment Coordinator:

- Maine Through Year and Maine Science: Krista.Averill@maine.gov
- Alternate Assessments: Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov

NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

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

2025-26 Administration Schedule

Fall 2025: September 15 – October 24

Winter 2026: January 5 – February 13

Spring 2026: April 13 – May 29 (*The spring administration will be closed April 20-24 for spring break.*)

Fall 2025 Administration: Important Dates

Late Summer / Early Fall: SAUs download the latest version of the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser onto student devices ([System & Technology Guide](#))

August 20 – October 10: [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.

Note: A student's enrollment must be updated in Synergy, and the student must appear in Acacia, before a paper-based form request can be approved and delivered.

August 29: Assessment roster daily change files begin, based on student enrollment data entered by the SAU into Synergy

September 2: Acacia opens for pre-administration activities

- Assign supports and accommodations ([User and Student Management Guide](#), Part 6, and [Accessibility Guide](#))
- Print test tickets ([Manage Online Testing Guide](#), Part 3)

September 15 – October 24: Fall 2025 administration window

- 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 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 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

New District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Accounts

District Assessment Coordinators will need access to two platforms:

- **MAP (start.mapnwea.org):** NWEA's platform for the MAP Growth assessment, which also serves as the access point for Acacia
- **Acacia:** NWEA's platform for the Maine Through Year Assessment, accessed by first logging into MAP

To access both MAP and Acacia, a MAP System Administrator for the SAU must create an Assessment Coordinator account in MAP for the new DAC. The new DAC may also be assigned the System Administrator user role if they will be adding, editing, or removing other staff users. User roles for accounts created in MAP sync to Acacia nightly.

See the [User and Student Management Guide](#) for more information on creating and editing user roles.

Maine Through Year Assessment Training Requirements

Once each academic year, the following trainings must be completed:

District and School Assessment Coordinators

[Assessment Coordinator Training Module](#)

- Updated for 2025-26
- Total completion time: Approximately 1 hour (can be completed over multiple sessions)
- Need a passing score of 60% on the final assessment within the tutorial
- Completion of the module is monitored for schools receiving levels 2 and 3 [technical assistance](#)

Review of the [Assessment Coordinator Guide](#)

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

This is an updated version with new screenshots. The total viewing time is 9 minutes.

Preparing Students for the Maine Through Year Assessment

Teachers can help students prepare for the Maine Through Year Assessment by viewing the student tutorial video, available on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

Students can also develop familiarity with navigating the secure browser and example questions by utilizing the Item Type Samplers, which are available [online](#) or within the State Solutions Secure Browser. Paper-based item type samplers are available for students participating in the Maine Through Year Assessment utilizing an accommodated paper-based form.

Online answer keys and paper-based item type sampler resources are available on the [Maine DOE Through Year Assessment webpage](#), under the **Item Type Samplers** drop-down menu.

Fall 2025 Professional Learning Opportunities

Maine Through Year Assessment: A Balanced Approach

Topic: Maine Through Year Assessment as part of a balanced assessment system, including summative and interim components. This session also includes information on the 2025 RIT score norms and the enhanced item selection algorithm.

Offerings:

- Monday, September 15, 3:00-4:30 PM ([Register](#))
- Monday, September 22, 12:00-1:30 PM ([Register](#))

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

Offerings:

- Monday, September 22, 3:00-4:00 PM ([Register](#))
- 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: <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 | Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <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.

Important Dates

August 25, 2025: Spring 2025 individual student and aggregated (school and SAU) score reports became available in the [Kite Reporting Platform](#).

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

Spring 2026 Administration Dates:

- High School: April 1 – 17, 2026
- Grades 5 & 8: May 11 – 22, 2026

New District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Accounts

District Assessment Coordinators will need access to two platforms:

- **Kite:** The reporting platform for the Maine Science Assessment
 - A new DAC file was provided to the vendor on July 24. Any DACs entered into NEO after July 24 should reach out directly to Krista.Averill@maine.gov to have their Kite account created.
- **ADAM:** The Assessment Delivery and Management system
 - New DACs entered in NEO prior to mid-February 2026 will automatically have an account created in ADAM. When access to ADAM opens in late-February 2026, new DACs who need additional assistance accessing their account should reach out to Krista.Averill@maine.gov.

Fall 2025 Professional Learning Opportunity

Making Sense of the Maine Science Assessment: A 3D Approach

Topic: Connections between the 3 dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards and the Maine Science Assessment design, scores, and reports

Offerings:

- Monday, September 8, 3:00-4:30 PM ([Register](#))
- Wednesday, September 17, 12:00-1:30 PM ([Register](#))

Who do I contact for Maine Science Assessment support?

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|--|--|
| Kite Support Desk (855) 277-9752 Kite-support@ku.edu | Maine DOE Assessment Team (207) 215-6528 Krista.Averill@maine.gov |
| Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessing 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 |

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

Spring 2025 Administration: Important Date






September 12: Last day to pull Spring 2025 results data in the MSAA Platform, including district, school and student level reports. Users with Test Coordinator roles in the platform will have the ability to download reports. For support accessing the platform, please contact the MSAA Service Center directly at: MSAAServiceCenter@cognia.org

2025-26 Administration Schedule

Spring 2026: March 9 – April 24

Back to School Alternate Assessment Office Hours

Join us for a special September 10th Alternate Assessment Office Hours, where participants will receive MSAA updates for the 2025–2026 school year. Topics will include:

-  **1% Action Plans** and **Technical Assistance Plans** to support compliance and improvement efforts
-  **Professional Learning Opportunities** and **Required Trainings** related to technical assistance
-  An overview of the **MEA Calendar** and key dates
-  **Accessibility Resources** for state assessments to ensure equitable testing experiences
-  Highlights from the **2025 AA-AAAS Data**, offering insights to inform planning and instruction

This session is designed to equip educators and administrators with the tools and information needed for a successful year of alternate assessment implementation.

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

Who do I contact for Multi-State Alternate Assessment support?

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|---|---|
| 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 2026

SAU and School Notifications were sent earlier this month. The **NAEP 2026 administration window is January 26, 2026 – March 20, 2026.**

*Please **note that the School Technology Survey must be submitted by Friday September 19th.** If the survey has not been submitted the school will automatically be designated as participation in the "school device model".* Notification of the assigned device model will be provided after the School Technology Survey is submitted.

The NAEP Application is available for review now as a resource for use while completing the School Technology Survey. Schools assigned to the School Device mode will need to identify a “NAEP Application

Installer” and provide the contact information of that individual. This person 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 Survey Resources

- [NAEP 2026 School Technology Survey](#) - preview copy
- [NAEP 2026 School Device Technical Requirements](#)
- [Completing the NAEP School Technology Resource](#)
- [NAEP September 5th Drop – In Technical Assistance/Office Hour \(please share this link if appropriate\)](#)

Current and Upcoming NAEP 2026 activities

- **Technology Survey contact needed!** - Who would be the best person to complete this for the SAU or school(s)?
- School Technology Survey must be submitted by Friday September 19th.
- Assessment dates will be provided in October.
- SAU and school staff should be registering in the NAEP AMS.
- SAU and school users receive registration and login information for the NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS) from naep-ams@naepnpd.org.
- School and SAU OKTA accounts from 2024 have been deleted.
- Multi-factor authentication is required for all users.

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. This transition began with the 2024 administration with participating students successfully completing the NAEP assessments in over 90% of Maine schools using school provided Wi-Fi. SAUs and schools will be required to complete the NAEP 2026 School Technology Survey to determine whether school-managed devices meet the criteria for NAEP administration. Most students at NAEP sampled schools using Chromebooks and/or Windows devices will be assessed using school devices. Additional details will be provided during future Assessment Team Office Hours and supplemental NAEP Office Hours as well as through email communications.

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.

August 2025 NAEP Nugget and Resources:

The [NAEP scale scores page](#) on the NAEP website has been redesigned and replaces multiple subject-specific scale score pages with a single, streamlined resource. Users can now access NAEP score scale ranges all in one location and explore an educational infographic that explains the relationship between scale scores, achievement levels, cut scores, and item maps.

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?

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|---|---|---|
| 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Delay or closing • Need to reschedule • Change in Assessment Logistics | Provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Mechelle Ganglfinger**
Contact Mechelle at: Mechelle.ganglfinger@maine.gov or (207) 242-4244

2025-26 Administration Schedule

Winter 2026: January 5 – February 27

Upcoming WIDA Facilitated Webinars

Expanding Reading Instruction with Multilingual Learners

Monday, October 6 & 20, 2025 from 3-4:30 p.m.

This series of two webinars and online resources provides ideas for expanding reading instruction to make it more effective for multilingual learners. Participants will learn ways to build on and expand current approaches to teaching reading and to engage multilingual learners in the interactions that support reading development.

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](#)

2025-2026 Required Training for Test Administrators of WIDA ACCESS

- Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA ACCESS Paper
- Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA ACCESS Paper
- Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener and WIDA ACCESS Braille
- Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener and WIDA ACCESS Braille
- ACCESS Braille Speaking
- Kindergarten ACCESS: Administration and Scoring (available beginning 9/29/25)
- ACCESS 4th grade Writing Domain (paper booklet) - Maine DOE specific

Recommended Annual Recertification

- Online ACCESS: Administration
- Paper ACCESS: Administration
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS: Administration and Scoring (required if completed prior to 9/1/2024)

Start Using the Brand-New WIDA Language Charts Today

The WIDA Language Charts are a brand-new resource that can help you understand and communicate the expectations of revised ACCESS for ELLs (WIDA ACCESS), which will be used in the 2025-2026 school year. The charts connect WIDA ACCESS to the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition and make the Proficiency Level Descriptors clearer, more actionable and directly connected to classroom instruction.

Learn how to use the charts in the [new Language Charts article](#) (secure login required).

Who do I contact for support related to the WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

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|---|--|--|
| 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 |