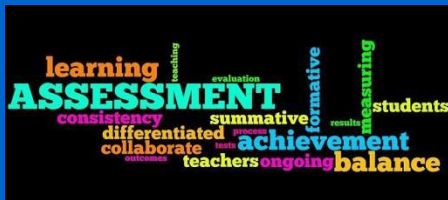


## Professional Learning Opportunities

The new Maine DOE professional learning calendar is now available on the Maine DOE website. There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators. The new calendar has increased functionality including a search feature.



## Corona Virus (COVID) Resources for Schools

Department and Commissioner updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic are available for schools. Please also note a resource page for families contains updates materials and resources.

## Meet the Team



## Request for Information

The assessment team needs your help! We've developed a short and concise [13 question survey](#) to solicit feedback regarding assessment administration and what we can do to better support educators in Maine SAUs better moving forward. If you can take a few moments to complete the survey, it would be greatly appreciated.

## Remaining Assessment Window

Assessment Title	Administration Date
Maine Science	5/17/2021-6/11/2021
ELA/Literacy & Math NWEA	03/01/2021-6/15/2021

## Assessment Team Contacts:

Janette Kirk  
Director of Assessment  
207-441-2958  
[janette.kirk@maine.gov](mailto:janette.kirk@maine.gov)

Nancy Godfrey  
Math, ELA/Literacy &  
Science Assessment  
Coordinator  
207-530-1273  
[nancy.godfrey@maine.gov](mailto:nancy.godfrey@maine.gov)

Regina Lewis, Ph.D.  
NAEP &  
International Coordinator  
207-530-1355  
[regina.lewis@maine.gov](mailto:regina.lewis@maine.gov)

Jodi Bossio-Smith  
Alternate & WIDA Assessment  
Coordinator  
207-530-1462  
[jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov)

Varun Motay  
Data Analyst  
207-530-1368  
[Varun.motay@maine.gov](mailto:Varun.motay@maine.gov)

Cheryl Brackett  
Management Analyst  
207-441-3019  
[cheryl.brackett@maine.gov](mailto:cheryl.brackett@maine.gov)

---

## Thank You



We recognize this assessment season was significantly more challenging due to administration window dates, the pandemic, scheduling, and a multitude of other reasons.

The team appreciates the additional work that was completed by technology coordinators, special education directors, district assessment coordinators, assessment administrators, proctors, and others to make the assessment administration efficient as possible. Without you, administration of the assessment would not be possible. Thanks for the questions and suggestions posed and provided to enhance and revise processes and procedures in the future. Enjoy the summer – we hope you have the opportunity to disconnect, relax and take time for yourself and to be with loved ones over the summer.

## Special Considerations & Data Certification Request for Information

---

Thank you to those who have reached out with questions regarding certifying data related to special considerations (exemptions) from assessment. Due to the unforeseen extensions to all assessment windows and the added ability for SAUs to request special considerations via a bulk upload as a direct result of COVID-19, the data currently populated within the ESEA demographics certification only includes requests approved directly within the special considerations module. This means the data within the ESEA Demographics report related to special considerations do not necessarily reflect all special consideration requests approved to date. **SAUs should disregard this data field within the ESEA demographics report at this time.** Once all assessment windows are closed and data is exported to MAARS in late summer/early fall, SAUs will have the opportunity to validate the special consideration (exemption) data. Unfortunately, with so many extensions and changes this year, there was insufficient time to reflect the ongoing updates to the module. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Additional questions can be directed to [MEDMS.Helpdesk@maine.gov](mailto:MEDMS.Helpdesk@maine.gov)

## Stay in the DOE Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for general assessments and for the Alternate Assessment. For those looking for notifications regarding the ASSESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. Please use the following links to subscribe:

[General Assessment MEA Listserv](#)

[Alternate Assessment Listserv](#)

[WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv](#)

## Assessment Office Hours

Assessment office hours continue to be implemented on a weekly basis alternating between focused sessions for DACs and assessment in general. All Q & A documents related to sessions provided beginning Friday, February 5, 2021 are available on the [Assessment Administration Materials and Training](#) webpage. Recordings of the office hours are now also available and have been added to the page.

## New! ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Administration Dates for SY 21-22 Are Set!

The administration window will run from 1/10/2022 - 3/04/2022



## Office Hours

Thank you to those Thank you to those who have been attending the weekly office hours on Fridays for the past 15 weeks. We hope you have found the information, conversations and the opportunity to ask and receive responses to questions helpful. Initial data from the assessment survey provided is indicating a pause of assessment office hours over the summer. Therefore, the final assessment office hour will be on Friday, June 11 at 12 noon. We will resume office hours once school is back in session and will ensure we provide necessary links ahead of time.

# NWEA Math & Reading Updates

## Re-administration policy

The re-administration policy related to the NWEA MAP growth assessment is available on the NWEA webpage. Please ensure if there is an irregularity, the DAC reaches out to Nancy Godfrey, Assessment Coordinator prior to re-administering the assessment. It is important the Department has record of re-administrations to assist with the comprehensive data file clean-up process in early July.

Please submit NWEA Re-Administration requests directly to [Nancy Godfrey](#). Include the following information:

- District/SAU Name and ID#
- School Name and ID#
- Student SSID#
- Grade/Session (Math or Reading)

The following criteria must be met for re-administration approval:

1. Student rapid-guessed more than 30% of the time – **what was the rapid guess percentage?**
2. Student completed session <20 minutes – **in what time frame did the student complete the session?**
3. Student achieves >10 RIT points lower than a previous 20-21 window (fall 2020 or winter 2021) - **please document RIT score variations**
4. Student took session without proper accommodations or student was given accommodation that was not approved – **what was the accommodation error?**

If a NWEA Re-administration is approved by DOE, a District Assessment Coordinator (DOE role) and/or a Data Administrator (NWEA role) should suppress/exclude from reporting the first session. The steps are available on the MAP Help Center via this link under **Excluding a Test Result in Reports**:

[https://teach.mapnwea.org/impl/maphelp/Content/Data/DataMissingWrong\\_TestEvent.htm](https://teach.mapnwea.org/impl/maphelp/Content/Data/DataMissingWrong_TestEvent.htm)

We also have a brief video showing this process:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/332775295>

Additionally, the NWEA Support & Help Desk can be reached at:  
(855) 430-1777 or [techsupport@nwea.org](mailto:techsupport@nwea.org)

## Maine Science Updates

All science manuals and guides are housed in [MESCIENCE.ZENDESK](#). As a reminder the Science window closes June 11, 2021.

## Materials for tech coordinators:

- [Device & System Requirements for Online Assessment](#)
- [Lockdown Browser Installation & Setup Instructions](#)
- [Technology User Guide for School & District Assessment Coordinators](#)
- [Technology User Guide for Assessment Proctors](#)

Materials for assessment administrators, proctors, coordinators:

- [Maine Science Assessment Accessibility Guide](#)
- [Assessment Administration Manual Grade 5](#)
- [Assessment Administration Manual Grade 8](#)
- [Assessment Administration Manual High School](#)
- [Online Accessibility Tools User Guide](#)
- [Quick Guide, Starting Your Maine Science Assessment](#)

Science Training and Recordings:

- [Q & A Session Recording - What's New about the Maine Session NGSS - based Assessment \(1 hour\)](#)
- [Q & A Session Recording – Installation of the ADAM Lockdown Brower and Technical Requirements](#)
- [Q&A Session Recording - ADAM Online Assessment Administration: Rostering, Accessibility, & Proctoring \(1.3 hours\)](#)

Science Rostering:

The Science helpdesk has been receiving a high volume of calls related to the rostering of students within the platform. The following materials are also available within the Zendesk FAQs.

<https://mescience.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/1500000445901-FAQ>

- [Adding Classes and Enrolling Students - Alternative Methods](#)
- [Where do I find the Class sourcedId?](#)
- [Modify a Class and Enroll Students Into a Class One at a Time \(Alternative to the Quick Class Upload Method\)](#)
- [Adding a Class One at a Time \(Alternative to the Quick Class Upload Method\)](#)

Assessing Homeschooled - Updated Process:

Beginning Monday 5/24/21, all homeschooled students will be added to the Science/ADAM platform, but not be visible to schools and flagged "inactive". Therefore, you will not need to email DOE/Nancy Godfrey with these requests, rather contact the Science/ADAM help desk, and they will be able to change platform flag from "inactive" to "active" with minimal wait time.

Science/ADAM Platform Help Desk

855-544-0842

[MEScience@adamexam.com](mailto:MEScience@adamexam.com)



## Accountability Snapshot & ESSA Demographics Certification Report

Although the Department has submitted and requested a waiver from implementing accountability requirements in the fall of 2021, the data team in collaboration with Maine IT will take an “accountability snapshot” as of May 15. This “snapshot” of student enrollment contains information related to how confidential data is provided to Maine SAUs. This data will also be used to populate the ESSA Data Dashboard. Maine SAUs are asked to review the details in the ESEA Demographics Detail Report and certify the ESSA Demographics Certification report by **June 15, 2021** at which point the data will be finalized and captured in a snapshot dataset. Some elements to pay attention to include but are not limited to: Demographics, Alternate Assessment Students, Special Considerations, Full Academic Year. As the assessment window for the ACCESS for ELs assessment was extended until 4/16/2021 and an initial data file has not yet been received from WIDA DRC, we will be unable to include EL student exemption information within the data review. These data will be reviewed within the MAARS data verification process in early fall. **Any discrepancies observed in the ESSA demographics certification report should be corrected in your local student information system and uploaded to the state Synergy system.** Updates will reflect in the report within 2 hours. Further questions regarding the snapshot should be sent to [MEDMS.Helpdesk@Maine.gov](mailto:MEDMS.Helpdesk@Maine.gov).



## New Information from WIDA: ACCESS for ELLs Score Report Resources

With ACCESS for ELLs score reporting dates drawing near, WIDA has provided a list of key resources that help explain and assist in communicating about student scores:

- Newly updated **ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letters**: These parent letters, now available in the same 47 languages as the ACCESS Individual Student Report (ISR), provide general information about the ACCESS assessment and are meant to be provided to parents or guardians alongside the ISR. The letters are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the local level as desired with local test administration information and state or district policy.
- Looking for a way to better understand ACCESS scores or explain to a colleague? Check out the **ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports** and the **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports**. And in addition to providing an overview of the various types of score reports, these documents explain how scores are calculated, and how you can use proficiency level and scale scores to support your students' language growth.
- The **ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores** flyer, available in 13 languages, helps explain ACCESS scores and the Individual Student Report to families. Use the **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores** flyer for students who took Alternate ACCESS this year.



## English Language Proficiency District Reports

English Language Proficiency district reports will become available online within DRC on **June 18, 2021** and printed reports mailed to districts on **July 12, 2021**. This year's delay in receiving the data is a necessary downstream effect of extending the administration window to fourteen weeks, which in turn was a critical step in providing additional flexibility and support to schools this year. We are confident however districts will still find the reports a valuable resource supporting EL educators and administrators in targeting necessary supports and resources for the upcoming school year.

The final submission window will be June 16 – 29. Understanding that all Maine schools will be starting the summer break soon, a fillable pdf copy of the NAEP 2021 School Survey is available for early submission of the May school data. Please contact [Regina Lewis](#) to request a copy of this prior to leaving for summer break. The survey gathers information regarding grade 4 and 8 student instructional modes and attendance rates. Fillable pdf submissions may be returned as early as June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*As mention in our Office Hours, NCES has recently released the findings of following three studies.*

### [Recently Released NAEP 2018 Oral Reading Fluency \(ORF\)](#)

The 2018 NAEP Oral Reading Fluency study, was administered to a nationally representative sample of over 1,800 fourth-graders from 180 public schools. The ORF study provides an in-depth examination of the difficulties faced by students who perform below *NAEP Basic* in terms of fluency and foundational skills (word recognition and phonological decoding). After completing the NAEP fourth-grade reading assessment, students read four short passages out loud to assess their oral reading fluency (i.e., the ability to read text aloud with speed, accuracy, and proper expression) as well as two kinds of word lists to assess the skills that provide the foundation for oral reading fluency: word recognition and phonological decoding (defined below). The student responses to the NAEP reading tasks and ORF tasks were recorded on tablets. Additional information on the study and the report are located [here](#).

### [2019 National Indian Education Study \(NIES\) Report Release](#)

The NIES describes the condition of education for Native American (American Indian & Alaska Native [AI/AN] students in the United States. Although, 15 states will receive state level results, Maine will not receive state level results for this study due to the small size of our native population. Information about this largest and nationally representative study of AI/AN students is located [here](#). The primary themes for this study are:

- To what extent are AI/An culture and language part of the curricula?
- What is the overall education context for AI/AN students in the US?

### [NAEP 2019 Science Release](#)

The National Assessment Governing Board and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducted a virtual event with discussion and analysis of the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Science results for grades 4, 8, and 12. The event featured the 2019 NAEP Science results and highlighted a few of the released items from the assessment. More information and a recording of the event is available [here](#). NAEP science assessment information is available [here](#).



### [The Program for International Student Assessment \(PISA\) 2021](#)

A small number of Maine schools have been selected for the PISA 2021 sample. PISA is the largest international education study in the world and measures the mathematics, reading, science, and financial literacy of students nearing the end of compulsory education. PISA measures student performance in reading, mathematics, and science literacy. More information, including the PISA Data Explorer and the 2018 Study Results, is available [here on the PISA website](#).

- Notification will take place soon
- Administered to 15-year-olds
- Assessment Window September 20, 2021 – October 29, 2021

Please feel free to email [Regina Lewis](#) with any questions.



## Special Consideration - Translated Parent Consent Document Now Available

The team is pleased to be able to provide a translated parent consent letter required as part of the special request process. Translated documents are available on [the Assessment webpage](#). The documents are available in the following ten (10) languages: Arabic, Chinese-Simplified, French, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Lingala, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Portuguese (Angola). As a general reminder, special consideration requests must be submitted prior to the closing of the applicable assessment window.

### Assessment Office Hours

Assessment office hours continue to be implemented on a weekly basis alternating between focused sessions for DACs and assessment in general. All Q & A documents related to sessions provided beginning Friday, February 5, 2021 are available on the [Assessment Administration Materials and Training](#) webpage. Recordings of the office hours are now also available and have been added to the page.

## NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

- Please keep the student enrollment up to date in Synergy. This data is pulled periodically by Department teams. Updated and accurate enrollment data in Synergy allows the Department to upload student lists, utilize reported data therefore reducing the burden on schools/districts.
- Please ensure all District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) contacts and other contacts are current in NEO. In this time of uncertainty and adaptation, it is imperative that all contacts be accurate and up to date. This will provide Maine DOE personnel the ability to contact the appropriate person in order to share applicable and important information in a timely manner. Such roles are listed in the DOE [NEO Dashboard SuperSearch](#), which requires no login credentials. If a DAC needs to be updated/changed, directions are located on the [assessment webpages](#). (login credentials required)

---

Next Publication of Assessment Monthly Update July 1, 2021



