

Assessment Lunch & Learn / Office Hours



September 15, 2021

Please post questions you may have in the chat box – we will work to answer them during the session and add them to a Q & A document.

We will begin shortly.

Janette



Welcome

- Office hour restructuring
 - Lunch & Learn sessions
 - Front loaded as much as possible
 - Intentionality with file deadlines
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month 12 noon
 - Register to receive the link

Weekly DAC office hours begin today 9/15/21 and will be held on a monthly basis. The Assessment Team carefully reviewed all feedback provided by the field via our spring survey, and so the timing, format and topics of these meetings have been cultivated with this feedback in mind.

Quick re-introductions to the assessment team, and for those who may be joining us for the first time:

Janette Kirk, director of assessment

Cheryl Bracket, management analyst for the team

Jodi Bossio-Smith, coordinator alternate and WIDA assessments

Nancy Godfrey, coordinator of assessments

Regina Lewis, coordinator of NAEP and international assessments

Varun Motay, data analyst for the team



Plan for Assessment Administration

MEA Calendar

Fall administration

- NWEA Only (required Oct. 4 - 29)

Winter administration

- ACCESS & ACCESS for ELLs (Jan. 10 - March 4)
- NWEA (optional Jan. 17 - Feb. 10)

Spring 2022 administration

- NWEA (required, May 2-27)
- MSAA Math, MSAA ELA, MSAA Science (March 14 - April 29)
- Maine Science (5th & 8th Grades, May 2 - 13)
(3rd year of HS, May 16 - 27)

Janette



MECAS Homepage: What's New

[MECAS Guidelines for 2021-2022](#)

[Assessment Administration Coordination Checklist \(for Maine SAUs with students attending programs out of district\)](#)

- Communications sent to Special Education Directors and DACs on 9/2 regarding assessment of students attending out of state and regional programs.
- Communications sent to the corresponding attending programs, with a cc to DACs and Special Education Directors, on 9/7.
- Assessment Administration Coordination Checklist was included in these communications

[Special Considerations Instructions for 2021-2022](#)

[DAC and Data Specialists Look Up](#)

**Reminder – [Updating DAC contact information](#) **

[Soon to come](#): Assessment Security Handbook for 2021-2022

Regina



PISA

Assessment Window: 9/20/21 - 10/29/21

- PISA schools working with Field staff in preparation for the assessment.

- PISA is administered to 15 year old students



The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021

A small number of Maine schools have been selected for the PISA 2021 sample. The PISA Field Teams are working with the schools to assist with the preparation activities. 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](#).

- Administered to 15-year-olds
- Assessment Window September 20, 2021 – October 29, 2021
- * Overlap with Fall Administration of NWEA MAP Growth Assessment

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



ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Assessment Window: 1/10/22 - 3/4/22

NEW for SY 21-22: The Maine DOE will coordinate the materials ordering process for all SAUs with enrolled English learners.

Please remind EL educators within your SAU that all students identified as English learners must be given an EL start date in Synergy.

Jodi

There is an important update to the ACCESS ordering process this year. Maine DOE will be coordinating the ordering of materials for the ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for all Maine SAUs. This change in procedure is intended to lessen the administrative burden on Maine EL educators and administrators, and to free up much needed instructional time with students. A critical component of this process is to ensure that all newly identified English learners are given an EL start date in Synergy. Please remind your colleagues who work with English learners that after a student is screened for potential EL identification and receives a qualifying score, the EL start date needs to be communicated to the appropriate person at the SAU so this can be entered in Synergy.



MSAA and MSAA Science

Assessment Window: 3/14/22 - 4/29/22

- **Reminder:** The alternate assessment flag needs to be re-checked each year for students who are eligible to participate based on IEP team decision using state criteria.
- Alternate Assessment Timeline
- Assessment Administration Coordination Checklist for SAUs and out of state/regional program partners
- Alternate Assessment Coordinators for SY 21-22

The alternate assessments will be administered once, during the spring of 2022. Please remind your colleagues in the special education office that student's alternate assessment flags need to be re- "checked" each year for those students who are eligible to participate in these assessments. This data is used to populate the NEO assessment rosters and ultimately, student IDs in the MSAA platform. This week, our first listserv message went out to the 1% community, including resources such as the alternate assessment timeline for the year, the coordination checklist that we mentioned earlier in the session, and more. I will be sending out a survey to Directors in early October asking SAUs to identify who will be serving as the alternate assessment coordinator this year.



NAEP in Maine

Number of Participating Districts = 24

Number of Participating Schools = 198

Age/Grade	Program	Number of sites	Window
Gr. 4	NAEP Math & Reading	119	Jan. 24 to March 4, 2022
Grade 8	NAEP Math & Reading	102	Jan. 24 to March 4, 2022
Gr. 4 & Gr. 8 (schools selected for both grades)	NAEP Math & Reading	24	Jan. 24 to March 4, 2022
Grade 8	NAEP Civics & US History	1	Jan. 24 to March 4, 2022

*Additional schools may be added.

**NAEP 2022 is the biennial Congressionally mandated assessment

Total Number of Participating Districts = 111,
Participating Schools = 198

Total Number of

*Additional schools may be added.

Just a reminder to all educators and administrators that the Congressionally mandated biennial administration of NAEP now takes place during the even numbered years.

Responses to concerns you may have:

Concern: *No extra space for social distancing*

Response: We can work with a variety of space configurations and assess in places like the media center, cafeteria, or auditorium. I'll be happy to arrange for field staff to discuss this with you to identify areas where we

can conduct the assessment.” If all sampled students cannot be assessed in one visit, an extra testing day can be scheduled.

Concern: *Many students are only remote and never attend school in-person*

Response: *We understand many students are remote, but we still want to assess any sampled students attending school in-person.*

Concern: *Visitors are not allowed in the building, or visitors are required to follow COVID-19 protocols*

Response: *We understand your concern. Field staff follow strict protocols for PPE. In jurisdictions that require it, field staff will provide proof of vaccination. Is there a process for being considered as an essential visitor?*

NAEP COVID-19 Protocol

- Primary concern is to protect the health and safety of staff and students
- All Field Staff are vaccinated and participate in weekly COVID-19 testing
- Standard personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Protocol for sanitizing equipment and replacing PPE between groups
- Monitoring health of field staff
- Field staff training on using PPE, sanitizing and social distancing
- In addition, field staff will follow any school-specific COVID-19 protocols



NAEP: Why are so many of the schools in the sample again?

- *No NAEP 2021 student assessments were administered due to the pandemic,*
- *Sampled schools still provided data*
 - *NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey*
 - *NAEP School and Teacher Questionnaire Study*
- *NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the current student population*
- *Maximizes overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample*
- *Opens up the possibility of studying student performance within the unique context provided by the two studies*

Many of the schools were in the sample last year, particularly those that participated in the STQ Study and Monthly School Survey.

The statement provides a response to the question, “Why are the Same Schools in the Sample Again?”

Even though the NAEP 2021 student assessments were postponed due to the pandemic, sampled schools still provided data for the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey and the NAEP School and Teacher Questionnaire Study. The NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the 2022 student population while also maximizing overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample. Maximizing the overlapping school samples between NAEP 2022 and 2021 opens up the possibility of studying student performance, as measured by NAEP, within the unique context provided by the two NAEP studies that were administered in the 2020–2021 school year.



Maine Science

Back to separating Grades 5 & 8 from high school

- Grades 5 & 8 window
 - **May 2 - May 13, 2022**
 - 2 weeks

- 3rd year high school window
 - **May 16 – 27, 2022**
 - 2 weeks

Perhaps not on the forefront of everyone's minds as we have NWEA coming up in October, our first announcement regarding the Maine Science is the change back to separating the administration of the assessment between grades 5 & 8 from high school. As we all worked to administer 2 new assessments in the spring of 2021 and extended those windows to allow for flexibility, scheduling, and pandemic considerations, we will, in spring 2022, be back to a 2-week window for Maine Science. This takes into consideration the 2022 schedule of AP testing. This assessment continues to be provided through vendors New Meridian and MZD, and we will address any updates and enhancements in early 2022 or send announcements via the MEA listserv as they arise.



Update to Allowable Accommodations for the NWEA

- NWEA Math, Reading & Language usage fall 2021 10/4 - 10/29. **TTS** is disabled for the Reading session during these 4-weeks
- **** Update ****
 - Read Aloud (human reader) allowed for portions of NWEA Reading as outlined in IEP or 504 Plan
 - Directions + Questions + Answer Choices
 - Read Aloud is not permitted for PASSAGES
 - 1:1 staff support vs. group settings

[Read Aloud Accommodation Training](#) – 9/20/21 @ 11 am

The NWEA state assessment window will open on 10/4 - 10/29, 2021. As a reminder, text-to-speech will be disabled for the reading assessment during this window but is available for SAUs to use locally in the broader assessment window of August 15 through November 30. TTS remains available in this broader window and should be utilized as outlined within a student's IEP or 504 plan during classroom instruction for the mathematics and language use sessions.

When a student cannot access text-to-speech, an embedded resource available on the NWEA assessment, the student may be eligible to work with an assessment reader who provides an oral presentation of the assessment text. Read Aloud should be consistent with the student's normal routine during instruction and assessments.

Based on feedback from the field and a continuously seeking out best practices to support students, we are pleased to share that students who use read aloud accessibility / accommodations as outlined within an IEP or 504 plan for classroom instruction, will be able to use read aloud accessibility / functionality for the reading of **directions, questions, and answer choices**

within the NWEA reading session. **Reading session passages may not be read aloud.** We strongly encourage the read aloud accommodation be provided via 1:1 support due to the adaptive nature of the assessment and to protect assessment security. The assessment reader must be familiar with the MEA NWEA Read Aloud Protocol and sign an Assessment Security Agreement form.



What This Looks Like – Sample Items

Example 1:

Read the passage. **Yes, Read the Directions**

Ferdinand was sitting in the dark castle, looking outside the small window. The view, which might have been beautiful to a stranger, only depressed him. Ferdinand looked, he could only see trees and a big river. There were no trees, not a soul in sight. The castle, too, was abandoned and so Ferdinand could hear his own breaths, slow and hollow. Ferdinand looked out. The sky darkened; clouds were gathering, and the air was filled with the smell of rain, which did nothing to comfort his forlorn and desperate soul. A storm began suddenly, and his vision was blurred in the heavy sheets of rain. Ferdinand cried, but there was no one to hear him.

No, Do Not Read Passage

What is the theme of the passage? **Yes, Read the Question**

A Nature can cheer you up.

B Locking someone in a castle is wrong.

C Darkness takes away your hope.

D Loneliness is difficult.

Yes, Read the Answer Choices

This is a sample/practice item outlining the text that can (in green) and cannot (in red) be read aloud.

- Directions may be read aloud "Read the passage"
- Do not read the passage beginning with "Ferdinand was sitting...."
- Question may be read aloud "What is the theme of the passage?"
- Answer choices may be read aloud (A., B. C. & D.)



What This Looks Like – Sample Items

Example 2:

Choose the sentence that shows how crabs are different from lobsters.

Yes, Read the Directions

Sometimes people mistake crabs for a type of lobster because there are a lot of similarities.

Crabs have two front claws, and so do lobsters.

Some crabs have a dark red color, and so do lobsters.

Lobsters are larger than crabs, and they have tails. Crabs are smaller with no tails.

Crabs are a type of crustacean that live in the ocean.

Lobsters are also a type of crustacean that live in the ocean.

Yes, Read the Answer Choices

Here is another sample, a bit different, that does not have all 4 components (directions / passage / question / answer choices)

- Directions may be read aloud "Choose the sentence that shows how crabs are different from lobsters"
- No passage
- The question is embedded in the directions
- Answer choices may be read aloud:
 - "Sometimes people..."
 - "Crabs have..."
 - "Some crabs..."
 - Etc.



Plan for Assessment Administration

Important documents:

- [NWEA Accessibility Guide \(amended/updated September 2021\)](#)
- [MEA NWEA 2021-2022 Read Aloud Protocol \(new\)](#)

Available Support:

Prior to NWEA window, assessment reader should practice [the protocol](#) on MAP Sample Questions

Two important documents to read and review prior to the NWEA assessment window are the NWEA Accessibility Guide, which was amended/updated for the purpose of the Read Aloud decision, and the new MEA NWEA 2021-2022 Read Aloud Protocol. The protocol outlines:

- Assessment reader qualifications
- Preparation tasks
- General guidelines
- Post administration tasks
- English Usage Conventions
- How to read aloud/convey images and graphics, and
- Mathematical expressions

MAP Sample Questions assessment reader protocol practice: <https://www.testprep-online.com/map-free-sample-questions>



Data Validation

MAARS data validation is underway

Assessment	Start Date	End Date
MCAA (ELA/Math)	09/07/2021	09/21/2021
Access & Alt Access	09/07/2021	09/21/2021
NWEA	09/20/2021	10/04/2021
MEA Science **	TBD	TBD
MCAA Science **	TBD	TBD

**no data validation required

Varun

Data validation is currently underway for the MCAA and ACCESS data. State and district reports remain under development as final data sets continue to be added to the platform.

MCAA and ACCESS data concludes on 9/21/2021. Please ensure any discrepancies have been emailed to Varun Motay and Janette Kirk.

NWEA data validation is tentatively expected to begin on Monday September 20th for two weeks and will conclude at 4 pm on Monday October 4th.

Once finalized, district and state reports will begin to be populated. You'll note that district and school reports currently look inaccurate. This is because these reports are generated at an assessment content area level therefore all ELA/Literacy for all applicable assessments must be included in the platform. As NWEA is currently not in the system, these reports do not reflect a full data set.

Once all data sets are validated and uploaded, ISRs will be moved to production.

As a reminder, there is no data validation required regarding the MCAA Science and Maine Science assessment data due to standard setting/benchmarking being

completed spring/summer 2022. Raw score data will be provided within MAARS. Information will not be provided on ISRs.



Assessment Redesign

Spring & Summer sessions concluded

Additional Focus group conversations

- September 20
- September 27

Reconvening of fall sessions beginning late September & early October

Spring and summer sessions concluded mid summer with plenty of information, conversation and insights to consider as the team determines next steps. The team will be reviewing the materials from all spring sessions to determine convenings for the fall for those who have expressed interest.

In addition to the assessment redesign work currently underway, the department has contracted with Elena Maker Castro, a Maine research student, to implement focus groups regarding perceptions of assessment. Recruitment is underway with information shared with all education organizations, the Maine PTA and Maine Parent Federation within the past 2 weeks. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in participating, please let me know and I can provide you the flyer and Elena's contact information.



Questions & Answers



Review of Q from the chat



@maine.gov

Jodi Bossio-Smith

- MSAA Math & ELA/Literacy, MSAA Science
- ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Nancy Godfrey

- Math & ELA/Literacy
- Maine Science

Regina Lewis

- NAEP & International Assessments

Varun Motay, Data Analyst

Cheryl Brackett, Management Analyst

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team with any questions or concerns.