

Professional Learning Opportunities

The [Maine DOE professional learning calendar](#) is available. There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators.

COVID-19 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.



From the Maine DOE Assessment Team.....

Happy Holidays!

Spring 2021 Assessment Results

Data from all 2021 spring administration assessments are now available within MAARS. Maine Science and MSAA Science – both administered science assessments, were field tests and, as a result, raw score data is available. Benchmarking and standard setting will be conducted for both science assessments during the summer of 2022. Interested in participating in the benchmarking process? Please reach out to [Nancy Godfrey](#) (Maine Science) or [Jodi Bossio-Smith](#) (MSAA – Science).

Resources to Support Families

Understanding Math & Reading (NWEA) Scores/Reports

[Family Guide to MAP Growth \(PDF\)](#)

[What is MAP Growth?](#)

[Family Toolkit](#)

[Family Report](#)

[Parent Guide NWEA MAP Growth \(PDF\)](#)

[Why Assessment Participation Matters \(PDF\)](#)

Understanding Science (New Meridian) Scores/Reports

[Understanding MEA Science Field Tests Video](#)

^ Family Resources

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[Understanding MEA Science Field Tests Video](#)

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Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Now Available

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are available in MAARS for bulk download. Students who participated in the NWEA assessment will see student RIT scores including applicable NWEA percentile categories. Students who participated in the MSAA math or MSAA ELA assessment will see no change to the format or data within the ISR.

As a reminder, science data is not contained or reported in the ISRs due to the implementation of field tests and the absence of benchmarking or standard setting.



Assessment Lunch & Learning Office Hours 2021-2022

The Maine Department of Education assessment team will continue assessment office hours again on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 12 noon. Topics within the upcoming December office hours include information for scheduling, timeline, security of materials, plus more. A calendar of tentative topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages [Please register to attend these sessions.](#)

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Please join WIDA and DRC to learn about the following ACCESS for ELLs topics:

During Testing: Managing Test Sessions – ACCESS Online **Tuesday, December 7, 1:00pm-2:00pm CT**

During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS – ACCESS Paper **Tuesday, December 14, 1:00pm-2:00pm CT**

More information and login details can be found in the WIDA Secure Portal on the [Webinars](#) page. Login credentials are required.

ACCESS for ELLs and Alt. ACCESS for ELLs 21-22 Timeline

- ✓ 11/30/21 – Maine students will be available in WIDA AMS for SAUs to create test sessions, assign accommodations, and confirm all students are accounted for.
- ✓ 12/15/21 – All initial order materials will be received by Maine SAUs. Assessment materials will be shipped directly to schools, including student ID labels, writing booklets, alternate assessment and Kindergarten assessment forms, and test administrator scripts.

Stay in the Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for assessments. For those looking for notifications regarding the ACCESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. The following links can be used to subscribe:

[General Assessment MEA Listserv](#)

[Alternate Assessment Listserv](#)

[WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv](#)

District Test Coordinator Manuals will be sent to SAU central offices. If the SAU/school has more than 10 students assessing in a particular grade band and tier, 15% overage materials will also be included in this order, evenly distributed between the school and SAU central office.

- ✓ [12/15/21](#) – Additional Materials Ordering opens for SAUs. The initial materials order was calculated based on state enrollment data as of 11/8/21. If students have been newly identified or ELs have transferred into the SAU since that date, additional materials will need to be ordered. Shipping time takes appx. 3-5 business days and please order within a timeframe that the offices will be open to receive shipments.
- ✓ [1/10/22](#) – ACCESS assessment window opens. The window closes on [3/4/22](#).

New Research Report Examining Long-Term Growth Trajectories of ELs with & without IEPs

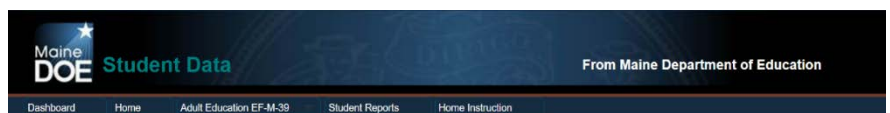
Motivated by findings of a 2018 WIDA report pointing to large overlap between English Learners (ELs) with Individualized Education Program (IEP) designations and those ELs who could be identified as long-term English learners (LTELs), WIDA conducted a study to further focus on these dual-identified students. Grouping ELs by ever-IEP, those who were assigned an IEP at any point in their longitudinal record, and never-IEP status, we compared these two subgroups' English language growth trajectories across time for 24 independent cohorts of ELs starting in grades K-3, throughout 2006-2011. Our findings show consistent trends of differential growth and reclassification rates for these two subgroups. Read more about this study in [Examining Growth at the Intersection of IEP and \(Long-Term\) EL Status](#) in the Resource Library of the WIDA website.

MSAA and MSAA Science

NEO Assessment Reports

DACs and Special Education Directors: Please confirm the Alternate Assessments Report in NEO is accurate, found under Student Data>Student Reports. Review the report for the following elements:

- ✓ All students with alternate assessment indicated in section 6B of their IEP are included in the report.
- ✓ Any students who are not eligible for alternate assessments are not present in the report.



Student Data Reports Dashboard

Reporting Area :

Search:

| Reporting Area | Report Name | Report Description | Navigation |
|----------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Assessment | Alternate Assessments (MSAA/MSAA/ACCESS for ELLs) | List of students who are eligible to participate in alternate assessments. | View Report |
| Assessment | English Language Proficiency ACCESS for ELLs - Grades K-12 | Lists students eligible to participate in the English Language Proficiency Assessment - ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate Access for ELLs. | View Report |
| Assessment | ESEA Demographics Certification Report | Aggregation of students enrolled on 05/15/2021 for participation in state assessments during the 2020 assessment administration. This report includes student demographic categories for assessment and accountability purposes. | View Report |
| Assessment | ESEA Demographics Detail Report | Details of students enrolled on 05/15/2021 for state assessments during the 2021 assessment administration. This report includes student demographic categories for assessment and accountability purposes. | View Report |

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Resource: [Sample Items and Teachers' Guides](#)

It's crucial that students are given opportunities to interact with the assessment platform, types of items, accessibility features and accommodations provided on state assessments. The MSAA platform includes practice items in math, ELA and science, available as both online and paper forms, for this specific purpose. Additionally, the **Sample Items' Teachers Guide** resources are available to help teachers better understand the alternate achievement standards (AAS) linked to each sample item. The guides also include learning targets, instructional strategies, and scaffolds and supports for the Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS) across grade levels.

[MSAA Sample Items Page](#)

[MSAA Sample Items' Teachers Guide](#)



National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022

NAEP Assessment Teams began their training sessions in November. The Maine DOE NAEP State Coordinator, Dr. Regina Lewis, attended the virtual training with the Assessment Coordinators. This training is the first step in ensuring that the NAEP assessment is administered in a consistent manner in all schools across our state and our nation.

A list of students enrolled in NAEP selected schools at the sampled grade 4 and grade 8 was submitted at the state level. Sampling of students has begun, and the list of students selected from each school will become available to the school coordinator in early December. Please remind the NAEP School Coordinator to register on the MyNAEP website, if the coordinator has not already done so, and to begin to complete the new tasks that will be available starting December 6th. NAEP personnel from the Assessment Teams will begin to contact school coordinators early in December to answer questions and schedule an additional meeting prior to the scheduled assessment date.

The NAEP State Coordinator will submit an updated student list during the first week in January to allow for a few additional students to be selected for the NAEP assessments. It is important that student enrollment be kept as up to date as possible to provide the greatest opportunity for student participation. School coordinators will have the opportunity to verify and/or correct the student demographic information. It is important to designate whether students have an IEP

Quick Links:

COVID-19 Toolkit

Certification

Fingerprinting

Data Warehouse

NEO

Funding

Suicide Prevention

Special Education

School & Student
Supports

Maine School Safety
Center

or 504 plan in this section. This step initiates the opportunity to provide information about how SD and/or EL students are assessed and the accommodations these students will need to access the NAEP-assigned subject. Please remember to include students with disabilities (SD) and English learners (EL) to the fullest extent possible and to review/download Maine's NAEP Inclusion Policy (a crosswalk to inclusion between Maine and NAEP policies).

Upcoming activities will include the notifying the parents/guardians of students selected for NAEP and encouraging participation in the assessment. Translations of the parent notification letters are available on the MyNAEP website for ten languages most frequently spoken in Maine. This year's assessment subjects include the biennially administered Mathematics and Reading assessments for grades 4 and 8, as well as Civics and U.S. History for grade 8. **The scheduled window for NAEP administration is January 24 – March 4, 2022.**

NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

A general reminder to ensure that contact information for teaching and non-teaching roles is updated within NEO. Instructions to update district roles (including DACs) may be found at: [Updating Staff Contact Information.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#). Please reach out to the [MEDMS helpdesk](#) with any questions or concerns.

Next issue of the Department of Education Assessment Monthly Update will be posted January 1, 2022.