

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.



NWEA Fall 2021 Assessment Results -

The assessment team is working to resolve data discrepancies in the comprehensive data file which included 3,008 student records with missing data including missing student IDs. Data from the fall 2021 administration assessments will be available to SAUs within MAARS as soon as these records are amended and updated. The team in collaboration with the MEDMS helpdesk is working to resolve these student records. Communication will be provided to DACs once the data is complete. Reminder: this data is already accessible within the NWEA MARC platform.

NWEA Upcoming Spring Training Topics (Dates TBD)

- NWEA/MARC platform roles & responsibilities review
- Utilization of state-approved SAU & school codes
- MARC platform configuration of testing windows
- Rostering and reporting attributes
- Suspending vs Terminating test sessions
- Excluding Test Results in Reports
- MARC platform system configurations
- Data Transfer processes
- Re-administration Policy & Protocol review
- Text to Speech & Read Aloud protocol review

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Maine Science Updates

After the spring 2021 extension of all Maine Educational Assessment windows, the Maine Science schedule has returned to its usual 2-week window listed below. The Assessment Team is conducting a survey to determine interest in exploring the possibility of extending the science window by two weeks. Please help us by participating in this [very brief survey](#) no later than Friday, February 11, 2022.

- Science window opens first for Grades 5 & 8 – Currently May 2 through May
 - **Extension would be May 2 through May 27**
- Science window for High School opens later – Currently May 16 – May 27
 - **Extension would be May 16 through June 10**
- Online reminder – no remote administration
- Paper-Based Order process – reserved for IEP/504 documentation online request link TBD



Maine Science Upcoming Spring Training Topics

- Installation of 2022 Lockdown Science/ADAM Browser
- Projected week 3/7-3/11
- Rostering in ADAM Platform - Projected week 4/4-4/8
- Accessibility Review (Tools, Supports, Accommodations) Projected week 4/11-4/15
- Administering & Proctoring - Projected week 4/25-4/29

Assessment Literacy Modules – New Meridian

- Module 1: Balanced Assessment (release early February)
- Module 2: Data Driven Decision Making using Summative Assessments (estimated release 3/2/22)
- Module 3: Summative Assessment Content (estimated release 3/10/22)

Assessment Lunch and Learn / Office Hours 2021-2022

The Maine Department of Education assessment team will continue the provision of assessment office hours on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 12 noon. Topics within the upcoming February office hours include information related to user professional learning, user accounts, administration manuals, opportunities related to ongoing technical assistance, utilization of practice items, upcoming opportunities related for assessment coordinator/assessment administrator training, and guidance regarding the early stopping rule, paper-based assessment, information related to the ADAM platform, plus more. A calendar of tentative topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages [Please register in advance to attend these sessions.](#)

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](#)

Changes to March Lunch & Learn/Office Hour schedule:

March 9 - The focus of this session will shift and will target pertinent support related to the upcoming administration of the MSAA assessments. The MSAA assessment window opens on Monday, March 14, 2022. If you've previously registered for lunch and learn sessions, no additional registration is required.

March 23 - This session has been added and will be the general Lunch & Learn Office Hours session for the month of March.

Registration to attend this newly added session is required

This information is also housed on the [Maine DOE Professional Learning calendar](#).

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

[ACCESS administration window has been extended and will now close on March 18th, 2022. Materials must be shipped back to WIDA/DRC no later than March 21st, 2022.](#)

Technical Assistance 2022: Technical Assistance Visits are now underway! Technical assistance including assessment observations meet federal requirements pertaining to assessment monitoring. Equally importantly, these observations can yield contextual and situational data to be used in conjunction with quantitative sources, to provide a better picture of the quality and equity of administration of assessments across Maine SAUs and schools. The Maine DOE Assessment Team utilizes this information to design planning and professional development for the upcoming school year, as well as to gather critical data about the student assessment experience.

If you would like a DOE Assessment Team member to provide onsite technical assistance during this year's ACCESS for ELLs administration window, please don't hesitate to reach out. Technical assistance can include many elements based on the needs of the SAU, such as:

- Modeling an assessment administration
- Observe assessment administration (While feedback can be provided upon request, the visit is not an evaluation of the Test Administrator).
- Answer questions regarding EL assessment and services
- The Assessment Team is also asking local ACCESS Assessment Coordinators/Administrators plan to conduct at least one assessment observation within the SAU during the Winter 2022 ACCESS for ELLs administration, using the updated.

Observational Checklist Tool: Couldn't make the January ACCESS for ELLs webinars? The recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal (login required) on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation. Technology coordinators may access recordings for technology-related webinars through the webinar schedule in WIDA AMS.

Reminder: Assessment Security: ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment coordinators and administrators are no longer required to complete a state assessment security agreement. In lieu of that form, the Assessment Team will be accepting the [WIDA](#)

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[Non-Disclosure & User Agreement](#) which all users complete annually during initial login to the Secure Portal.

Please do not add students in the WIDA AMS platform: If there is a new / transfer student, they will be added to the platform automatically via a daily change file submitted by Maine DOE. The file is generated based on current state enrollment data and will capture updates to enrollment. SAU entry of student information manually, may result in the creation of a duplicate record.

[If a student has unenrolled from the SAU, please reach out to Jodi Bossio-Smith for next steps.](#)

[MSAA & MSAA Science](#)

[NEO Assessment Reports](#) - DACs and Special Education Directors: [Please confirm](#) the Alternate Assessments Report in NEO is accurate. This can be found under Student Data>Student Reports. Please review the report for the following elements:

- All students with alternate assessment indicated in section 6B of their IEP have the alternate flag "checked" in Synergy and are included in the report.
- Any students who are not eligible for alternate assessments are not present in the report.

NEW!

[MSAA Test Administrator Manual 2022](#)
[MSAA Test Coordinator User Guide 2022](#)
[MSAA Test Administrator User Guide 2022](#)

What You need to Know: Important Dates

1/31/22: Test Coordinator Training. Highly encouraged for new TCs and those who want to brush up. [Register here](#)

2/28/22: User accounts go live in the MSAA System for all TCs and Test Administrators (TAs). All users will need to complete the online training modules in the platform to access the MSAA. Once accounts are active, TCs can check the student rosters, assign classrooms, and organize for administration.

3/1/22: Alternate snapshot is taken. After this date, no changes can be made to assessment participation for the 21-22 school year. [If you have any questions about which students are currently identified as alternate assessment participants, please contact Jodi as soon as possible.](#)

3/7/22: TA Training. Highly encouraged for new TAs and those who want to brush up. [Register here](#)

3/14/22 - 4/29/22: MSAA & MSAA Science assessment window is open.

Quick Links:

[COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

[Certification](#)

[Fingerprinting](#)

[Data Warehouse](#)

[NEO](#)

[Funding](#)

[Suicide Prevention](#)

[Special Education](#)

[School & Student Supports](#)

[Maine School Safety Center](#)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022

The NAEP administration window opened January 24, 2022. It is highly recommended that all NAEP School and Teacher Questionnaires be completed on or before the scheduled NAEP administration date for your school. NAEP uses these important tools to provide supplemental contextual information to student results. This added layer allows for greater depth of investigation in areas of importance including those of equity and inclusion. As we proceed through the spring 2022 administration of the assessment, please note that the Maine DOE and the US Department of Education (USDOE) understand that the assessment of students during the COVID-19 pandemic presents ongoing challenges. To assist with those challenges and provide greater flexibility for the rescheduling of assessments, the **NAEP administration window has now been extended through Thursday, March 31, 2022**. We recognize that many of Maine's students have received their vaccinations. In addition, a large majority of Maine's educators are also vaccinated. The assessment window has been structured in such a way to ensure adequate time to conduct the assessments should school-wide or cohort quarantines need to take place.

All NAEP Assessment Team personnel have received the COVID-19 vaccinations and will follow the [NAEP 2022 COVID-19 protocols](#) as well as the additional protocols required by Maine schools and/or SAUs. This includes daily screening, wearing masks while in the schools, and weekly testing. The health and safety of Maine students and educators are of our highest priority during the ongoing pandemic.

ESSA Data Dashboard

Thank you to those that reached out with clarifying questions or noted discrepancies and brought them to the team's attention. The public release of the [ESSA Data Dashboard](#) transpired on Monday, January 24th, 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 March 1, 2022.