

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.....




NWEA Updates

The winter assessment window is open beginning January 17th running through February 10th, 2022. This is an optional window for SAUs to administer NWEA to Grades 3-8, 3rd-year high school, and optional for 10th graders. Please note, the Text-To-Speech (TTS) feature will remain available and active in the MARC platform for all sessions, including Reading. Although the winter administration results are not shared with the Department, please set the assessment window to reflect the designated dates: [NWEA/MARC platform administrator login credentials Required](#).


Winter

Active Test Window Complete


Term Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*

12/01/2021 


Term End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*

02/28/2022 

Test Window Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

01/17/2022 

Test Window End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

02/11/2022 

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Fall 2021 Assessment Results & Resources to Support Families

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 for SAU review in MAARS as soon as these records are amended and updated. The assessment team in collaboration with the MEDMS helpdesk is working to resolve these student records. Communication will be provided to DACs once the data review is complete.

To support families understanding of RIT scores, the following resources are available (documents are hyperlinked):

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 \(PDF\)](#)

Assessment Lunch & Learn Office Hours 2022



The Maine Department of Education assessment team will continue the provision of assessment office hours on Wednesday, January 12th, 2021 at 12 noon. Topics within the upcoming January 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 in advance to attend these sessions.](#)

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Administration window opens 1/10/22 – 3/4/22

January ACCESS for ELLs Q&A Webinars

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

During Testing: [Managing Test Materials – ACCESS Paper](#) Tuesday, January 4th, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET

During Testing: [Technology Troubleshooting](#) Thursday, January 6th, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET

Post-Testing: [Returning Materials – ACCESS Paper](#) Thursday, January 27th, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET

More information and login details can be found in the WIDA Secure Portal on the [Webinars](#) page (login required). Technology coordinators interested in attending technology related webinars can find the [2021-22 Q&A Webinar Schedule for Technology Coordinators](#) in WIDA AMS.

Can't make it? The recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal 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.

NEW: 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 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.

Stay in the Loop:

Teachers & district assessment coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices. 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](#)

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MSSA & 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.

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 will continue to reach out to school coordinators as we continue to prepare for the assessment. Please note that parents must be notified prior to the scheduled assessment date.

The NAEP State Coordinator, Dr. Regina Lewis, 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. The parents of any additionally selected students for participation in the NAEP 2022 assessment must also be notified. Translations of the parent notification letters are available on the [MyNAEP website](#) for the ten most frequently used languages within Maine. Content areas to include the biennially administered Mathematics and Reading assessments for grades 4 and 8, in addition to Civics and U.S. History for grade 8.

Quick Links:

COVID-19 Toolkit

Certification

Fingerprinting

Data Warehouse

NEO

Funding

Suicide Prevention

Special Education

School & Student Supports

Maine School Safety
Center

Please note that all NAEP Assessment Team personnel have received 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.

The Maine DOE and the US Department of Education (USDOE) understand that the assessment of students during the COVID-19 pandemic presents ongoing challenges. The number of students receiving their first and now, their second vaccinations, is increasing steadily. In addition, many adults have received a COVID-19 vaccination booster. 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.

ESSA Data Dashboard*

The Maine DOE team is tentatively releasing ESSA required data to a password-protected ESSA data dashboard for SAU review. As SAUs have either previously self-reported data or have certified submitted data as accurate, the SAU review period is tentatively scheduled to begin January 5th - January 19th. Please notify [Penny Henry](#) by **4 pm on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022**, should discrepancies be identified, or questions arise when reviewing. The anticipated public release of the ESSA Data Dashboard is Monday, January 24th, 2022.

An email with the dashboard link and password will be provided to SAU superintendents, principals and DACs. Please check your email for this information.

*Please note, the winter break may delay notification emails tentatively scheduled for January 5th. If impacted, the review window will be revised to ensure two (2) full weeks for SAU review.

NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

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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.