



Dear Families,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. For the 2021-22 administration, Maine will be using the NWEA for grades 3-8 and third-year high school students in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Students in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will participate in the Maine Science assessment. Students in grades 3-8 and third year of high school with the most significant cognitive disabilities will continue to participate in the Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) to assess Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will continue to participate in the MSAA Science which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students who are identified as English learners also participate in an annual assessment of English language proficiency, the ACCESS for ELLs. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are identified as English learners participate in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. All assessments are administered online.

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) are as follows:

Assessment	Intended for:
ACCESS for ELLs	English learners in grades K-12
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 1-12
NWEA Mathematics & ELA/Literacy	Grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school
MSAA - Alternate Mathematics & ELA/Literacy	Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school
MSAA - Alternate Science	Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and third-year high school
Maine Science	Grades 5, 8, and third-year high school

As a parent, you may use the information from the assessments to help support your student at home and engage in a discussion with your student's teacher to identify what, if any, additional supports may be necessary in school. Teachers use this information, in combination with other forms of local data, to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. While no single assessment can give a complete picture of achievement, when combined with other measures, these data provide important information about student progress. When a student does not participate in the state assessment, valuable information is lost.

Both the Maine Department of Education and our district are working to limit the amount of student assessment at the state and district level while ensuring that assessments provide meaningful, actionable information for teachers, students, and families. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators and your support, students are prepared for success. We encourage you to reach out to **[INSERT RESOURCES e.g., your child's teacher/school/administrator]** with any questions you may have about the MEA or your student's progress.

Thank you,

[INSERT district/school administrator]