**Questions & Answers**

**March 19, 2021**

# New Meridian

**What format will the different sessions be for Maine Science?**

The assessment forms include multiple choice, multiple select, technology enhanced and constructed response items.

**Will there be practice items or released items for Maine Science prior to testing this year?**

New Meridian is in the process of constructing a practice item tutorial for Maine. Maine DOE has requested that the items included in the tutorial represent the variety of items included in the assessment form.

# NWEA

**Is there a district whose DocuSign has been submitted and the follow-up email from NWEA received? We have not received ours yet…**

Please check with your superintendent to see if the email was received ensuring you’ve checked all spam and junk folders. Welcome emails were initiated on Friday March 19 and should be forthcoming. If you continue to have difficulties, please reach out to assessment coordinator Nancy Godfrey who will provide additional support.

**Is there DOE guidance on an opt-out policy now that the NWEA is being used as the statewide assessment?**

The opt out policy has not changed at all. The Department neither prevents nor promotes opting out or non-participation. If there is a district-established opt out policy, parents need to be notified of this policy. We are aware of districts which require such a request to be made in writing, and that principals then meet with these parents to make sure they have a comprehensive understanding of the purpose of the assessment. If the parent still chooses to opt out, the student is not administered the assessment and is counted as a nonparticipant.

**Will Grade 10 students be included in the NWEA state contract for next year?**

The contract runs through the Spring 2022 including grades 3-8 and 2nd/3rd years of high school.

**If we are a previous NWEA user, will our historical data be migrated into a new account or will we maintain our current accounts?**

If you are a current user, your data will be available using what we already have in place. All data available for students will remain available via the student SSID#. We can clarify this further in the Q&A document.

**Fall 2021 administration requirement - is that only for language use or for all of the NWEA assessments in 3-8 and 3rd year of high school?**

The required sessions for Spring 2021 are reading and math. Beginning Fall 2021 and into Spring 2022, the required sessions will be reading, math and language use.

**If we are a current NWEA customer, but need to expand the offerings into HS (10/11 and we will pay 9) what will be the protocol?**

NWEA will be reaching out to these districts to find out how many licenses are needed for 2nd/3rd year high schoolers, and the Department will then be billed for these licenses.

**If homeschoolers wish to take the MEA Science or spring NWEA, how will they be added? (assuming only the students already rostered will “count”).**

There is a method by which a student can be manually added by the district/school. This topic will be covered in the upcoming onboarding beginning March 22nd. The student will not be included in the school’s accountability report and will receive a student report.

**Do SPPS's receive a user agreement or does the SAU for the student(s)?**

SPPSs received their own agreements.

**Will the parameters for accommodations for NWEA be posted on the website and be in the training modules?**

Yes. There is an upcoming Accommodations and Accessibility meeting with NWEA and Maine DOE and the information will be posted on the website afterwards.

**Are experienced proctors of NWEA required to participate in the trainings?**

Onboarding, which starts Monday March 22, is for all new users/proctors. Experience proctors are invited to all trainings, particularly the training related administering NWEA remotely. DOE will clearly articulate and identify which training sessions deal with the remote administration, so that educators aren’t overwhelmed by the number of sessions available.

**NWEA remote administration concerns include validity and efficacy issues: insecure testing due to students having access to parents/cell phones/secondary devices/etc.; home environment is not an ideal testing setting with noises & distractions; lack of proctoring and active monitoring; accommodations; reading test directions; troubleshooting technical and/or connectivity issues; difficulty launching a test to remote students whose remote (instructional) participation is unreliable; etc.**

We recognize that SAU and school staff have concerns regarding administration of an assessment remotely. For most of us, this is the first time such an assessment will be administered in a remote manner.

Concerns have been expressed regarding the security and validity of the assessment when administered remotely due to possible family member assistance, lack of adequate quiet space etc. While the Department recognizes none of these conditions are by any means, ideal for administration, this is one of the few assessments that can be administered remotely. For current NWEA users, the school staff will be able to detect any unexpected variances in student performance. For New users this will be more of a challenge. We would encourage students to use the same or similar location in the home as they have to access their remote instruction. Due to the remote nature of the student, it cannot be guaranteed a student wouldn’t grab a cell phone, iPad or other device and utilize while participating in the assessment. The utilization of the web-based browser would allow the proctor to view the students participating in the assessment however, the browser itself is “unlocked.” The decision of which browser will be determined by the proctor/school as you know your students best. The Department is working on having the traditional Spring 2021 MEA letter for parents/families translated – this should be available on our website early next week.

We recognize the availability of accommodations is a large concern. We are working to get resources as quickly as possible on our website and have a meeting early next week to tease this out further. We will provide information as soon as we have it.

With regard to tech issues, the challenge will be if a student who is remote begins to experience challenges accessing the assessment or if there are connectivity issues. The helpdesk is available for you to call with issues however, support would be somewhat limited due to the remote nature of the student. For students who maintaining a stable connection to the internet may be a challenge, please make a best faith effort to administer the assessment. Should there be ongoing challenges, please reach out to the assessment coordinator directly.