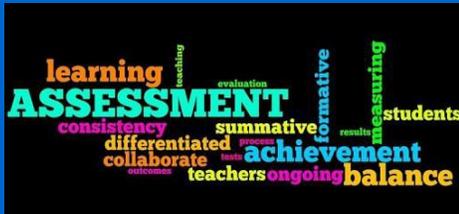


Professional Learning Opportunities

The new Maine DOE professional learning calendar is now available on the Maine DOE website. There are many opportunities for professional learning available to Maine educators. The new calendar has increased functionality including a search feature.



Corona Virus (COVID) 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.



US DOE Updates – Accountability & Assessment

The US DOE via a **Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)** dated, February 22, 2021, to state education chiefs, provided an update regarding assessment, accountability and reporting requirements. In this letter, the USDOE indicated states should examine possible flexibilities such as:

- Offering remote administration, where feasible;
- Extending the testing window to the greatest extent practicable
- Encourage states to extend the testing window for their ELP assessment, including beyond the end of the 2020-2021 school year, if necessary, to ensure that districts are administering this assessment when it safe for them to do so.
- Administering a shortened version of its statewide assessments.

This guidance has affirmed Maine's current approach to supporting the administration of assessment as the Department continues to determine next steps.

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Meet the Team

Special Considerations

Translated Parent Consent document now available

The team is pleased to be able to provide a translated parent consent letter required as part of the special consideration request process. Translated documents are available on [the Assessment webpage](#). The documents are available in the following ten (10) languages: Arabic, Chinese-Simplified, French, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Lingala, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Portuguese (Angola).

The English version of the parent consent is also provided in the same location.

Office Hours

The team continues to provide **office hours for DACs and general assessment office hours** on a bi-weekly basis. These sessions will be offered on a bi-weekly basis. Topics of focus will be provided in advance when applicable and of course, there will always be an opportunity to ask questions. These sessions will be recorded and posted to the assessment webpages. Meeting invitations will be provided through the following mechanisms:

- DAC Assessment Hours – through a direct email to DACs with the link included.
 - Assessment Hours – an email with log-in information will be provided through assessment list serves.
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ACCESS Assessment Administration Materials and Resources

[Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19](#)
[Understanding ACCESS for ELLs Scores 2021](#)

Stay in the DOE Loop:

Teachers & district test coordinators may sign up to receive Assessment Listserv notices for general assessments and for the Alternate Assessment. For those looking for notifications regarding the ASSESS / Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please subscribe to the ESL Communication list. Please use the following links to subscribe:

[General Assessment MEA Listserv](#)

[Alternate Assessment Listserv](#)

[WIDA / ACCESS English Learner Listserv](#)

[ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Window Open](#)

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment window opened on January 11th and remains open through April 16th, 2021.

Many thanks to schools and districts for their efforts towards a safe administration of ACCESS for ELLs this school year! Maine is almost halfway through the assessment window, with eight weeks remaining after the February break.

DRC Customer Service is on call to assist educators with questions on the following topics from **8:00 am – 7:00 pm (EST), Monday through Friday:**

- Technology Setup and Troubleshooting
- Materials orders and returns
- Student and test session management

DRC can be reached at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and by phone at (855) 787-9615.

WIDA and DRC ask districts currently assessing to please return completed Grades 1-3 Writing Test Materials **before** the end of your assessment window, if possible. Receiving these materials early plays a critical role in the scoring process and will help WIDA and DRC get the student information you need to you as soon as possible.

Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi Bossio-Smith, Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov



Alternate Assessment Updates

The MSAA and MSAA Science administration window runs from **March 15th – May 14th, 2021.**

A Reminder for ACCESS

- Plan, schedule and review assessment sessions in WIDA AMS
- Share all important technology updates with the district technology coordinator
- Confer with special education director/case managers to confirm that the accurate accommodations have been selected/established for students with IEPs in the WIDA AMS system. To read more about accommodations on ACCESS.

Do you need support with ordering additional materials, setting up assessment sessions and/or accommodations, or identifying required assessment training? If so, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments, Jodi Bossio-Smith, Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

[MSAA Test administrator Manual \[TAM\] and User Guide 2021 are now available on the DOE Website](#)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education recently [announced a national survey](#) intended to collect data pertaining to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and educators. This project, known as the "NAEP 2021 School Survey", was created to address the requirements of [Executive Order 14000](#).

Maine schools originally selected for participation in NAEP for the spring of 2021 are participating in the monthly NAEP 2021 School Survey. The Maine Department of Education recognizes the importance of accurate and reliable data to guide decision-making and appreciates the commitment of Maine schools selected to participate. Schools and districts, selected for participation, were notified by the department during the latter part of February.

The National Center for Education Statistics will administer the survey monthly to gather information regarding grade 4 and 8 student instructional modes and attendance rates through the end of the 2020-21 school year. The goal of the survey is to provide data to inform policy and identify needed resources to continue to support in-person learning. This data will be collected at the national and local level(s). Please note that this study does not require student participation and involves only the schools originally selected for the postponed NAEP 2021 assessment.

The Maine Department of Education will receive a data file from each of the monthly data collection windows as well as a final cumulative data file. The Department plans to use this data to support schools as they develop ongoing instructional models and plans. A pdf copy of the NAEP 2021 School Survey is [located here for your convenience](#).

Please feel free to email Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov with any questions.

“Forget the Mistake, Remember the Lesson”

Author Unknown

Extension of NAEP

- **A decision has been made to extend the deadline of the survey to Friday March 12, 2021.** We recognize a lot has been done to meet the previously established deadlines and I am very thankful to you all for that effort and the effort of your schools. However, we do recognize how tight the timelines were and are extending the window to allow for an increase in participation. The focus of this effort is to really start to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the education system across the country and the monthly survey is a first step to meet this goal. The Office of the Secretary and department leadership are very interested in the findings. Producing a nationally representative finding is key for meeting the goal of understanding the impact, while also providing states with additional information.
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Next Publication of Assessment Monthly Update April 1, 2021