NWEA VS MAINE DOE
ACCESSIBILITY / ACCOMMODATIONS

Some important differences between Maine State NWEA and locally administered NWEA Accessibility Features and Accommodations

What if our state or district accessibility and accommodation policies are different from MAP Growth?
MAP Growth serves many different states and international partners; this allows us to standardize our terminology for everyone. This document contains our MAP Growth guidelines only, so we recommend you refer to your state accommodation policies, as there may be differences. For example, your state may consider the use of a dictionary as an accommodation instead of a universal feature, or text-to-speech as an accommodation instead of a designated feature. The reverse may also be true; for example, providing extended time to take a test may be available for all students as a universal feature instead of an accommodation.

The School Assessment Coordinator or a proctor is responsible for students receiving their designated supports, accessibility features and accommodations for the NWEA MAP Growth assessments. This is achieved by selecting students within a saved assessment session and adding accessibility features as described in this guide:
https://teach.mapnwea.org/impl/maphelp/Content/Testing/accommodations.htm

It should be noted, there is no bulk upload method of assigning student accessibility features.

For this administration of MEA-NWEA it is recommended to have ONE individual identified at each school to complete this rather than proctors changing the settings for each assessment session. It is important to remind the individual assigned for adding accessibility features that it must be completed for Math, Language Usage, and Reading individually. If a student changes assessment sessions assignment, the accessibility features must be reapplied. If a student is assigned a different assessment within that session, the TTS setting must be reapplied in addition to other accessibility featured that you may want to select.

Below are some important differences between the allowable accessibility features within NWEA for local assessment purposes, and those which are permitted to be used for Maine State Assessment purposes.

Text to Speech (TTS).
Maine DOE is permitting TTS for students within the Math, Language Use and certain components of the Reading session (not including reading passages) if it is a documented IEP/504 accommodation and is consistent with the student's normal routine during instruction. TTS is categorized by NWEA as both a designated feature and an accommodation, and there are two places an individual could select this within the student assessment profile. Schools should identify and select TTS in the section that best represents the student's circumstance (e.g. select the Designated Features option for students receiving relevant RTI, and Accommodations option for our special education students with IEPs that require TTS). For the purposes of the assessment, there is no functional difference between the two.
When assigning be sure to check all four boxes in the TTS area of the student assessment profile for MATH and LANGUAGE USE. When assigning for READING Session, make sure the box for "assets such as reading passages" is NOT checked.

Embedded Designated Features
The system will provide these

☑ Text-to-speech ❤

To assign Text-to-speech, the student must be assigned a test first.
Note: Text-to-speech may not be available on some tests due to
state/district policy. Text-to-speech is not available on K-2 tests.

Please check your state/district policy to determine whether Text-to-speech is considered an Accommodation or Designated Feature

Select areas of the item that would be read aloud.

☑ Answer choices ❓
☐ Assets such as reading passages ❓
☑ Question directions ❓
☑ Questions/prompts ❓

Embedded Accommodations
The system will provide these

☑ Text-to-speech ❤

To assign Text-to-speech, the student must be assigned a test first.
Note: Text-to-speech may not be available on some tests due to
state/district policy. Text-to-speech is not available on K-2 tests.

Please check your state/district policy to determine whether Text-to-speech is considered an Accommodation or Designated Feature

Select areas of the item that would be read aloud.

☑ Answer choices ❓
☐ Assets such as reading passages ❓
☑ Question directions ❓
☑ Questions/prompts ❓

Non-embedded Universal Tool
Within NWEA there are many checkboxes that schools can choose to ignore. For example, a non-embedded universal tool would be Scrap/Scratch Paper. This can be made available to all students and must be collected and securely destroyed at the end of each assessment session, but you do not need to select this checkbox in each student assessment profile.

Common (Designated) Supports and Accommodations
Another common support or accommodation for students is Extended Time. This is not relevant for the technical functionality of NWEA as it is an adaptive assessment with no built-in time limits. Noise Buffer may be selected for students participating in the assessment while in a separate setting. Schools may find value in selecting these for planning purposes (e.g., how many proctors are needed, and for what length of time). This information can also provide historical information about the physical setting of a student when they were being assessed.

Native Language Translation is an accommodation that is not permitted for any Maine Educational Assessments.

Human Signer or Human Reader/Read Aloud can be used in the Math and Language Usage sessions, specific components of the Reading session, and must be documentedin an IEP/504 plan.

Dictionaries, Glossaries and Thesaurus
Thesauruses are not permitted.
English Language Dictionaries are not permitted.
Bilingual Glossaries are permitted but must be word-to-word translations. For example, an English to Spanish word-to-word dictionary would include *"rectangle – el rectangulo"* instead of a definition *"rectangle - una forma con cuatro ángulos rectos pero lados adyacentes desiguales."*

Calculators
A digital, on screen calculator will automatically appear on items for which a calculator is permitted.

☐ Calculator

A student uses a specific calculation device (e.g., large key, talking, or other adapted calculator) other than the embedded grade-level calculator for items that include a calculator for students to use.

☐ Calculator use

A student has access to a calculator throughout the test.

"Calculator Use" is prohibited entirely during State NWEA.

"Calculator" means a large button calculator, or a calculator for people who for whatever reason cannot manually operate a calculator except by voice activation - think of it more of assistive technology device. Even when an assistive device is provided, it can only be utilized for items during which the on-screen calculator is available.

Multiplication tables are not permitted.