

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.....



Extension of NWEA Assessment Window

As outlined in the [DOE newsroom on Friday October 22nd](#), recognizing the extreme challenges experienced at the start of the 2021-2022 school year as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact Maine SAUs, schools, students and families, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) and our assessment team would like to ensure that the maximum flexibility possible is provided to support educators and students. As a result, the NWEA fall assessment window has been extended an additional two (2) weeks and will close on Friday, November 12, 2021.

Upcoming Professional Learning for NWEA

This information was originally provided via email to DACs and technology coordinators and is also included with the Maine DOE professional development calendar and in the professional learning catalog. [professional learning catalog](#).

[Applying Reports 1: Connecting MAP Growth Scores to Student Learning \(NWEA\)](#)

Once you're comfortable with the basics of administering MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data.

Assessment Team contact information:

Janette Kirk
Director of Assessment
207-441-2958
janette.kirk@maine.gov

Jodi Bossio-Smith
Alternate & WIDA Assessment Coordinator
207-530-1462
jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

Nancy Godfrey Math,
ELA/Literacy & Science
Assessment Coordinator
207-530-1273
nancy.godfrey@maine.gov

Regina Lewis, Ph.D.
NAEP & International
Assessment Coordinator
207-530-1355
regina.lewis@maine.gov

Varun Motay
Data Analyst
207-530-1368
varun.motay@maine.gov

Cheryl Brackett
Management Analyst
207-441-3019
cheryl.brackett@maine.gov



Learning Targets

- Understand how MAP Growth RIT scores measure what each student knows and is ready to learn
- Identify ways to use MAP Growth data to flexibly group students
- Access, interpret, and apply MAP Growth data
- Analyze MAP Growth data to support planning and instructional decisions

Register for [Applying Reports 1](#) – November 2.

[Applying Reports 2: Student Growth and Goal Setting with MAP Growth Plan](#) how to use your MAP Growth data to inform ongoing work, with a focus on goal setting with students.

Learning Targets

- Build on practices that use growth projection data and learning statements to engage students in setting academic goals
- Access and interpret growth data and apply it to student instruction
- Explore reports and resources to support sharing performance and growth data with students and parents

Register [Applying Reports 2](#) – November 4.



Lunch & Learn Office Hours 2021-2022

The next scheduled Lunch & Learn session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 at 12 noon. Topics within the upcoming November office hours include information around data training and the ordering of ACCESS materials. A calendar of tentative topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages [Registration for these sessions is now available.](#)

Stay in the Loop:

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

MAARS Adhoc Module

For a number of years, educators and administrators have shared the desire to be able to “slice and dice” local and state assessment data by numerous data points and student populations. In a direct response from feedback received from administrators and educators, the assessment team is excited to share the Adhoc module is now available in MAARS. The Adhoc Data Analysis Tool is an application that provides school-level and district-level users in Maine SAUs with the ability to create customized reports using the state and local assessment data that is available in the MAARS system. The Adhoc Data Analysis Tool also allows users to collaborate and share the reports created with other users in the school or district.

Professional learning regarding the utilization of this module is scheduled for November 10 from 2 – 3 pm. [Please register here for the session.](#)



ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Final call!

Please confirm that all newly identified English learners have been given an **EL Start Date** in Synergy. Current enrollment as of 11/1/21 will be utilized by Maine DOE to general Materials Orders for the Winter 2022 administration of **ACCESS for ELLs** and **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** for all Maine SAUs. The initial order of ACCESS materials will be received by SAU offices and schools by 12/15/21.

[Paper Based Materials for ACCESS for ELLs](#)

Paper based materials and test forms are available for English learners with disabilities as written in the IEP. All paper materials requests, including Braille and large print, must be submitted to Maine DOE using the [Paper Materials Request Form](#). Please return the completed form to Assessment Coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith: jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov.

*Note: Alternate ACCESS for ELLs forms do not require a Paper Materials Request Form. These will be included along with all other initial materials ordered by Maine DOE, based on current enrollment data as of 11/1/21. Student who are eligible for participation in alternate

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 accurate accommodations have been selected /established for students with IEPs in the WIDA AMS system.

Click here to learn more about ACCESS accommodations.

Need support with ordering additional materials, setting up assessment sessions and/or accommodations, or identifying required assessment training? If the answer is yes, please reach out to the Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments, Jodi BossioSmith, at:

Jodi.bossiosmith@maine.gov

assessments, including Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, must have the alternate flag "checked" in Synergy for SY 21-22.

Professional Learning Opportunities for EL Educators

- Educators in Maine who work with English Learners can participate in WIDA's self-paced e-learning workshops. There are a variety of topics available via this resource. For more information, contact assessment coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith or [read here](#).
- Are you interested in learning more and providing feedback regarding future ACCESS assessments? If so, head over to WIDA's [Building an ACCESS Assessment webpage](#) for more information.

New Resource: WIDA has released a research report [Examining English Learner Testing, Proficiency and Growth: Before and Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The report examines English learners' testing, proficiency, and growth in the academic years of 2018–19, 2019–20, and 2020–21, using population-level data from ACCESS for ELLs Online. The objective of the report is to shed light on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on English learners' educational outcomes.

Coming Soon to Your Area.....First Snow of Season!



MSAA & MSAA Science

MSAA and MSAA Science

Reminder

All students who participate in the alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards [AA-AAS] must have the alternate flag "checked" in Synergy for SY 21-22. The MSAA and MSAA Science are designed for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and participation is made by the IEP Team using [state criteria for eligibility](#).

*Please note, the alternate assessment flag in Synergy must be re-checked each year that the student remains eligible to participate in alternate assessments.

Special Considerations Module:

The special consideration module remains open through Friday November 12, 2021 and will close upon closure of the NWEA fall assessment window. Any requests for special consideration must be submitted by COB or 4 pm, Friday, November 12.

Currently DACs, Principals and Superintendents are able to submit requests in the module. Should additional access be required a superintendent is able to request additional designees be added to the module.

Information on how to request access for additional designees can be located on the MEDMS Helpdesk – [Request access page](#).

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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 the state assessments. The MSAA platform includes practice items in math, ELA/literacy and science, available as both online and paper forms, for this specific purpose. Additionally, the Sample Items Teachers Guide resource is now available to help teachers better understand the alternate achievement standards (AAS) linked to each sample item. The guide also includes learning targets, instructional strategies, and scaffolds and supports for the AAS, across grade levels.

[MSAA Sample Items Page](#)

[MSAA Sample Items' Teachers Guide](#)



National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022

Preparations for NAEP 2022 are well underway. Schools and districts selected for participation in the assessment have provided information about the school characteristics, local COVID-19 policies, and how students are receiving instruction. State-level student enrollment for the grade 4 students at the schools selected for NAEP will be submitted prior to November 19, 2021, on behalf of all NAEP sampled schools. Early in December school coordinators will have the opportunity to verify and/or correct the student demographic information. It is important that whether students have an IEP or 504 plan in this section. This step initiates the opportunity to provide information about how students with disabilities (SD) and/or English Learners are assessed, and the accommodations students will need to access the NAEP-assigned subject. Please remember to include students with disabilities and English learners to the fullest extent possible and to review/download Maine's NAEP Inclusion Policy (a crosswalk to inclusion between Maine and NAEP policies).

Upcoming activities will include the notifying the parents/guardians of students selected for NAEP and encouraging participation in the

Quick Links:

COVID-19 Toolkit

Certification

Fingerprinting

Data Warehouse

NEO

Funding

Suicide Prevention

Special Education

School & Student
Supports

Maine School Safety
Center

Next Lunch & Learn Office Hours

November 10, 2021 @ 12:00

Join us on Zoom

Topics to include:

- Data Training
- Ordering Additional Materials
- Plus More!

To See Our Full Schedule for
Lunch & Learn Office Hours

assessment. This year's assessed subjects include the biennially administered Mathematics and Reading assessments for grades 4 and 8, as well as Civics and U.S. History for grade 8. The scheduled window for NAEP administration is January 24 – March 4, 2022.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021

Thank you to the Maine schools that participated in the PISA 2021 assessment during the September 20 to October 29, 2021 window. PISA measures 15-year-old student performance in reading, mathematics, and science literacy. More information, including the PISA Data Explorer and the 2018 Study Results, is available [here on the PISA website](#).

Please feel free to email [Regina Lewis](#) with any questions.

Update to the Availability of Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

We are tentatively planning for the bulk download functionality for ISRs to be available Monday, November 8. Currently, SAUs can view and print individual student ISRs in MAARS however, the bulk download/export functionality (zip file) is currently in progress.

NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

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.



Availability of Science Data

Science data from the Maine Science and MSAA Science are now available within MAARS for your review beginning Friday, October 29 –

Monday, November 15, 2021. As you begin your review, please note the following:

- Absence of student performance levels
 - Both the MSAA Science and the Maine Science assessments were field tests and as such, have not gone through the benchmarking process. As a result, you will not see student performance represented in exceeding, meeting, below or well below state expectations.
 - You will see the raw data from the assessment itself (student score)
- Participation and non-participation
 - With the absence of performance levels, the data is displayed according to student participation.
 - You can select to see the list of students who participated or did not participate using the participation or non-participation bar within interactive reports
- District and State reports
 - Please verify the following information:
 - Number of students participating/not participating
 - Number of students participating in the alternate assessment
 - Number of students receiving a special consideration
 - Other demographic information

Please reach out to [Varun Motay](#) and [Janette Kirk](#) with any discrepancies you identify or questions you may have.



Next issue of the Department of Education Assessment Monthly Update will be posted December 1, 2021.