

# Assessment Lunch & Learn / Office Hours

October 13, 2022

Please post questions you may have in the chat box – we will work to answer them during the session and add them to a Q & A document. We will begin shortly.

As always, we are glad you are able to join us today and are hopeful the information provided in these sessions is helpful and beneficial to your work.

We have our assessment team members, Jodi Bossio-Smith, Cheryl Brackett, Krista Averill, Regina Lewis, Varun Motay, consultant Andy Wallace, to ensure we are able to answer all questions in a timely, efficient and detailed manner.

Some general reminders before we get started today:

- Feel free to place questions in the chat – we will respond to them during the Q & A session
- In the Q & A session, if asking a question please raise your hand and we will call on you.
- Please ensure you are muted – we will be muting all participants shortly to ensure limited distractions



## General Reminders

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### Updating of NEO for DAC / Tech Directors

- *Instructions available*

October monthly update now posted

All training webinars & slide decks  
available via the respective assessment  
pages

We hope the 2022-23 school year is off to a great start!

We are excited to share that over the summer and more recently there are some changes to the assessment team. We welcome Krista Averill, a former science and social studies educator from China Middle School to the assessment team. Krista is coordinating the math, reading (NWEA) and Maine science assessments.

More recently and within the coming weeks, Jodi Bossio-Smith will be transitioning to the role of Director for Assessment. This is effective September 19. During this period of transition, both Janette and Jodi will serve as points of contact for assessment related items as we work to back fill the vacancy created by Jodi's transition.

The assessment calendar for the 2022/23 school year is posted on the DOE website. The winter administration of the NWEA MAP growth remains optional as in prior years but Krista will be sharing additional information related to NWEA next.

Some general reminders:

- With transitions that transpire within districts, please ensure if there are changes to the DAC role in the SAU, these changes are also reflected in NEO. By doing so, we can maintain communication of important assessment related information. Please note NEO log in credentials are required to make these changes and the directions ([https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doel/files/inline-files/Updating\\_DACs\\_NEO\\_1.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doel/files/inline-files/Updating_DACs_NEO_1.pdf)) are located on the assessment homepage.

- September monthly update is now available. Sent to DACs and tech coordinators/integrators
- Feel free to reach out with future topics for consideration for inclusion.



## **General Reminders, continued**

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Technical Assistance Request Form

Maine Through Year Assessment FAQs updated weekly

Next Office Hours on November 9<sup>th</sup>

- Pre-administration tasks for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS For ELLs
- Maine Through Year Assessment
- Updates to yearlong professional learning



## NWEA: Reading and Math

### Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 Administration

- Fall window is open now through October 28th
- NWEA MAP Growth Assessment: Reading and Mathematics
- Grades 3-8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school
- Updated [Pre-Administration and Administration Trainings](#)
- Winter Optional Assessment Window: January 9 – February 3

NWEA Maine  
Partner Support

**(855) 430-1777**

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM EST

The fall administration window for the NWEA MAP Growth assessment is open now through October 28<sup>th</sup>.

As a reminder, the Department of Education is no longer requiring students to take the MAP Growth assessment for Language Usage. The two required assessments are Reading and Mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school.

Although the Department is not providing new training for the administration of the MAP Growth assessment, on our Math & Reading Assessments webpage you can find updated pre-administration and administration trainings as well as other assessment resources. A list of frequently asked questions from our October 5<sup>th</sup> MAP Growth Q & A session can also be found with the administration trainings.

As a reminder, the winter MAP Growth assessment will be optional. The window is from January 9<sup>th</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you are struggling with MAP Growth setup or administration, please call NWEA Maine Partner Support at (855) 430-1777. A representative will be available to help you between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm.



## NWEA: Reading and Math

### Spring 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> Administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment

- May 1 – 26
- Computer-adaptive assessment in Reading and Math for grades 3-8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school
- Spring assessments produce both a RIT score and a measure of student performance according to state expectations

FAQ: *Why are we making this transition from MAP Growth to the Maine Through Year Assessment?*

For more information, visit our [Math & Reading Assessments webpage](#).

Spring 2023 will bring the first administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment in Reading and Mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of high school. The Maine Through Year Assessment, which is being developed in collaboration with NWEA, is a computer-adaptive assessment that will replace the MAP Growth assessment. The spring Through Year Assessment will produce both a RIT score and a measure of student performance according to state expectations.

The Assessment Team appreciates the continued questions and feedback from the field regarding the transition to the Maine Through Year Assessment for Spring 2023. In addition to the [August 4<sup>th</sup> Priority Notice](#) and the recording/slides of the Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> webinar now available via the [Math & Reading Assessments webpage](#), the Assessment Team has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document addressing questions about the

Maine Through Year Assessment.

At this time, the most commonly asked question is, ***Why are we making this transition from MAP Growth to the Maine Through Year Assessment?***

The NWEA MAP Growth assessment was adopted as an emergency measure during the pandemic to meet schools' needs for immediate, actionable data. MAP Growth was an interim assessment solution while the Department of Education worked collaboratively with NWEA to develop a state assessment that meets all federal requirements. The Maine Through Year Assessment will provide the opportunity for Maine educators to continue utilizing an assessment tool that they find helpful and necessary in instructional decision making. By maneuvering to a through year approach, students will now be assessed on grade-level content with a performance level assigned, and they will also receive a RIT score which provides continuity of longitudinal data for those Maine SAUs that have used NWEA for some time. Additionally, in order for a state assessment to meet federal peer review requirements, it must include a criterion-referenced, summative portion that aligns with grade-level state standards. Because the NWEA MAP Growth assessment is a norm-referenced assessment, it does not meet these federal requirements and, as such, is not a long-term assessment solution.

For more frequently asked questions, please visit our Math & Reading Assessments webpage. The FAQ document is updated weekly as we compile more questions and answers.



## Maine Science Assessment Reminders

- Grades 5, 8, and third year of high school
- Assessment Window: May 15 – 26, 2023
- [Practice Assessments](#)
- Data from Spring 2022 will be available in late fall
- Newly available on our [Maine Science Assessment webpage!](#)
  - Assessment Blueprints

In spring 2023, the Maine Science Assessment will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and third year of high school. The assessment window for the Maine Science Assessment is May 15 through 26.

Practice assessments are available for each grade level and can be found at the link in the slides. This link is also available on the Maine Science Assessment webpage: [https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing\\_Accountability/MECAS/Generalscience](https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/Generalscience)

Data from the spring 2022 will be available in late fall. Our science assessment vendor, New Meridian, is now applying the performance cuts determined during standard setting to the results files and will provide this to the Department. Once received, team members will complete necessary quality assurance checks (including verifying and aligning

demographics) before providing to our reporting vendor, FocalPoint. Spring 2022 student results reports will be released in late fall with educators able to review within Maine's Assessment & Accountability Reporting System (MAARS). Standard setting occurs only when there is a new assessment or new state standards, so moving forward, we are anticipating data to be available much sooner.

Assessment blueprints are now available for the Maine Science Assessment for grades 5, 8, and HS under *Resources* on the Maine Science Assessment webpage. All items on the Maine Science Assessment are aligned to a science topic and to a specific performance expectation. To ensure ample coverage of all grade-level science topics, **assessment blueprints** specify targets for the minimum and maximum number of score points aligned to each topic.



## National & International Assessments -



- NAEP Day 2022 Monday, Oct. 24  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET
- NAEP No Maine Schools selected for NAEP 2023 Field Test
- PISA 2022 administration
  - October 3, to November 25, 2022
- TIMSS 2023 administration
  - March 1 to May 31, 2023

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The 2022 NAEP Mathematics and Reading results will be officially released on Monday, October 24, 2022 by NCES Commissioner Dr. Peggy Carr. National and state results will be presented for more information please visit <https://www.nagb.gov/news-and-events/calendar/naep-day-2022.html>

Release information for NAEP 2022 LTT age 9 <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/highlights/ltt/2022/>  
More information from the National Assessment Governing Board about the release <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-subject-areas/long-term-trend/2022-NAEP-Long-Term-Trend-Release.html>

No Maine Schools selected for NAEP 2023 Field Test - March 20 to April 14, 2023 Enjoy the year off

PIRLS - Analysis and reporting (release date in December 2022 tentatively)  
<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/>

### **PISA 2022 –**

15 year olds

Fall 2022 administration window 10/03 - 11/25/2022

Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Financial literacy

Focus topic is Mathematics for 2022

PISA 2022 will focus on mathematics, with an additional test of creative thinking.

The new PISA 2022 mathematics framework was recently launched and is located at <https://pisa2022-maths.oecd.org/>  
Since 2000, PISA has involved more than 90 countries and economies and around 3, 000, 000 students worldwide

### **TIMSS 2023**

4th/8th grade: about 576,000 students in 64 education systems  
TIMSS 2023 focuses on how well students have learned the mathematics and science curricula in participating countries. Has been conducted every 4 years since 1995.  
Assesses 4th- and 8th-graders in: Mathematics, and Science achievement  
TIMSS 2023 Assessment dates: March 1-May 31, 2023

### **ICILS 2023** (No Maine Schools)

8th grade: about 90,000 students in 30 education systems  
ICILS 2023 compares U.S. students' skills and experience using technology with that of their peers in countries around the world. The United States participated in ICILS in 2018 along with 13 other education systems and will participate again in 2023.  
Assesses 8th-graders in: Computer & Information Literacy (CIL), and Computational Thinking (CT)  
ICILS 2023 Assessment dates: March 1-May 31, 2023



## **ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs**

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are Maine's state assessment of English language proficiency for students identified as multilingual learners.

The assessment dates are 1/9/23 – 3/3/23

The assessment roster and initial materials order are generated based on current enrollment data in Synergy after the October enrollment deadline.

Please connect with your EL administrator or data specialist to ensure all multilingual learners have been given an EL Start Date in both local enrollment and Synergy.

Here is the information pertaining to our state English language proficiency assessments, the ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. As a reminder, ELP assessment is a required component of the services and supports provided to all Maine multilingual learners. The DOE ESOL Team is currently in the process of reaching out to SAUs with low ACCESS participation rates for Winter 2022 to offer technical assistance in the administration of these assessments.

As in past year, the assessment window will open the week after schools return from the winter break, and is 8 weeks long.

During the last school year, the Assessment Team restructured technical support for Maine SAUs administering the ACCESS assessments. One such change was that the DOE facilitated the initial materials ordering for all districts. The intent was to remove this significant administrative task from the plates of ESOL administrators. A secondary benefit to this change was that SAUs only received materials for students accurately enrolled as multilingual learners, with an EL Start Date in Synergy. Similarly, alternate ACCESS assessments were only ordered for students who were accurately enrolled as both an ML and alternate assessment participant via the special education record. Please remind your ESOL colleagues, as well as local coordinators of enrollment, that

only students who are enrolled in Synergy with an EL Start Date are eligible to participate in ACCESS.



## ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

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Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test – 2/14/23 – 4/17/23  
Grades K-12

- All MLs with the most significant cognitive disabilities eligible for alternate assessment participation will participate in both the field and operational Alternate ACCESS this year
- Training materials for the field test now available via the Alternate ACCESS Training Course in the WIDA Secure Portal
- Field test materials will be sent to the same district offices as ACCESS materials, via a separate shipment
- Field test data will result in the development of the Alternate ACCESS 2.0, the Kindergarten Alternate ACCESS, and a WIDA Alternate Screener

For more information about the upcoming Alternate ACCESS Field Test, please register for the upcoming WIDA webinar taking place on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30pm ET. The DOE ESOL Team are in conversations with several districts around how we can best support with this additional assessment administration. To request technical assistance, please don't hesitate to complete the technical assistance form via the MeCAS homepage.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g\\_QX0gYkubzeoajy-GToyPdQ5ELaBPhzkWJcBXjGRUN1dKUTRVszJVWtc2ME4wVU4wNDBRUKlOUy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0gYkubzeoajy-GToyPdQ5ELaBPhzkWJcBXjGRUN1dKUTRVszJVWtc2ME4wVU4wNDBRUKlOUy4u)



## MSAA and MSAA Science

MSAA and MSAA Science are Maine's alternate assessments in ELA/math/science for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, who have been found eligible via the IEP Team process.

Alternate assessment dates for 2023: March 13<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

The assessment roster is generated based on current enrollment data in Synergy after the October enrollment deadline – the alternate assessment flag “checked” in the student's special education record

Students participating in AA-AAAS must be enrolled with the alternate assessment flag checked in the Synergy special education record. These are students who have been determined eligible by the IEP Team using state guidance for eligibility.

The team is aware that in many SAUs, the District Assessment Coordinator is not the coordinator for alternate assessments. However, feedback from the field indicates that in many instances it has been helpful to have the DAC also receive a district-level account to the MSAA Platform. If you would like an MSAA account in your capacity as DAC, please complete the following brief survey I am placing in the chat. This survey is also being shared with special education directors. The data will be used to not only establish those district-level accounts, but also to create the yearlong mailing list to send updates to alternate assessment coordinators.

Many special education directors have reached out seeking clarity around the high school administration of alternate assessments, given the change to the general assessment administration. While the move to a second-year administration for general assessments was based on feedback received around the curriculum and assessment demands at the third year of high school, those considerations do not impact the population of students participating in alternate assessments. In fact, special educators

across the field provided the additional feedback that the additional year of instruction and services between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades is particularly critical for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are working towards grade level content. As always, we want to center decision-making around what is best and equitable for this population, rather than “sameness” with the general assessments. Maine DOE has received confirmation from US ED that administering the two assessments in different grade years still meets federal requirements.

The alternate assessments are administered once per year, this year from March 13<sup>th</sup> – April 28



## Questions & Answers

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Review of Q from the chat



## Questions or Support? [@maine.gov](mailto:@maine.gov)

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### Jodi Bossio-Smith

- Director of Assessment
- MSAA Math & ELA/Literacy, MSAA Science
- ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

### Krista Averill

- NWEA Math & Reading
- Maine Science

### Regina Lewis

- NAEP & International Assessments

Cheryl Brackett, Management Analyst

Varun Motay, Data Analyst

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team with any questions or concerns.