



Assessment Team Monthly Update

October 2023

ASSESSMENT

It's difficult to believe that we are already in October.

We hope the first month of school was wonderful for each of you. Right now, the Assessment Team is focusing on both pre- and post-administration tasks for the Maine Through Year Assessment, preparing information resources for principals around the upcoming NAEP administration in Spring 2024, and supporting SAUs in their preparations for assessing multilingual learners and students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Please read on for specific updates, and as always, do not hesitate to reach out with questions.



[SAU Request for Assessment Technical Assistance](#)

Join us for monthly office hours with the Assessment Team

2nd Wednesday of every month, 12-1pm

[Register for office hours](#)

General Reminders

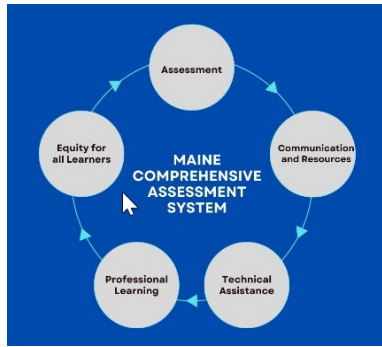
- ✓ **Keep student enrollment data up to date!** Enrollment data in Synergy is utilized to populate the NEO, assessment reports, add students to the assessment platforms, etc.
- ✓ **Keep staff data up to date in NEO** – Teams and offices across the Maine DOE utilize the SAU contact information in NEO when sending out targeted information about upcoming events and trainings.
- ✓ **Do you have challenges with Synergy, NEO, or just have a data-related question? The MEDMS Helpdesk is here to help: medms.helpdesk@maine.gov or (207) 624-6896**

Hours:

Mon - Wed: 8am - 4pm

Thursday: 8am - Noon

Friday: 8am - 4pm



NWEA Maine Through Year Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Krista Averill

Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or 207-215-6528.

Assessment Administration Window Is Now Open!

The required Fall 2023 Maine Through Year Assessment administration window is open from **October 2 to October 27**.

Please visit the [NWEA Connection Page](#) for manuals and guides. You can find other resources on the Maine DOE's [Maine Through Year Assessment](#) webpage. For guidance on special enrollment circumstances, including partially homeschooled students, newly arrived multilingual learners, and international students, please see our [Maine Comprehensive Assessment System Guidelines](#).

For questions related to policy and rostering in Acacia, please reach out to Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov. For questions related to technical issues in the Acacia website and State Solutions Secure Browser, please contact NWEA Maine Partner Support at (855) 430-1777.

Resolving Technical Issues in the Acacia Platform

Two technical issues in the Acacia platform have been identified, and are described below.

1. Special Education Records

Identified Problem: Some students' special education records have not been updated in the student's profile in Acacia. Although the student has an IEP, the special education flag is marked N.

Action Required by SAUs: None. Please do not attempt to change student demographic information in the Acacia platform. An "N" in the student's special education record in Acacia does not prevent the SAU from assigning accommodations or from assessing the student. The Maine DOE Data Team is working towards a solution at this time. If you have concerns regarding special education records, the SAU's responsibility is to ensure that Synergy is up-to-date.

2. Students Missing from Manage Online Testing Groups

Identified Problem: A small percentage of students appear in the Acacia platform when searched for using the View and Edit feature (or Find Student icon), BUT the students do not appear in the Manage Online Testing groups. As a result, there is no test ticket information for these students.

Action Required by SAUs: NWEA Partner Support has identified two SAU-level solutions:

- A. If the number of students missing from Manage Online Testing is small, the SAU can go into each student's profile in Acacia, click the Accessibility Supports tab, scroll to the bottom of the page, and Save Updates. No changes are needed to the Accessibility Supports before clicking "Save Updates."
- B. If the number of students missing from Manage Online Testing is large, download a Registration report from Operational Reports. Re-upload the same csv file via Students>Upload. No changes are needed to the Registration report before uploading.

Both of these solutions will force students into Manage Online Testing. If these solutions are not working for you, please reach out to NWEA Partner Support at (855) 430-1777.

Summative Spring 2023 Maine Through Year Assessment Data

Spring 2023 Maine Through Year Assessment results data are now available in the follow forms:

- The **Student Score Data File** contains both Maine-specific scaled scores and RIT scores. It is available in Operational Reports. This is a csv file.
- The **Online Reporting System** in Acacia contains both aggregated reports and individual student reports.

Individuals with the Instructor role in MAP Growth need to be assigned to Reporting Groups in order to access student results in Acacia. Directions for creating and assigning Instructors to groups can be found in Part 7 of the [User and Student Management Guide](#).

NWEA Professional Learning

Please see the dates below for Fall 2023 NWEA Professional Learning sessions.

Using Achievement Levels to Ensure Classroom Rigor

- Tuesday, October 3, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Intro to Reports—Administrators

- Thursday, October 5, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 10, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12, 12:00–1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 18, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Intro to Reports—Teachers

- Wednesday, October 4, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 6, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- Friday, October 6, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 11, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 19, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 23, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Using Multiple Data Sources to Inform Instruction

- Friday, October 6, 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- Friday, October 6, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

You can register for these events by following this [link](#).

Maine Science Assessment

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Krista Averill**

Contact Krista at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or 207-215-6528.

Practice Tests Are Now Open

To access the practice tests, please use the browser-based ADAM, <https://adamexam.com/tester/>, and enter the test codes found [here](#).

Spring 2023 Student Score Results

Maine DOE is excited to be working with KU Achievement & Assessment Institute to develop new score reports for the Maine Science Assessment. Reports will be able to be generated at the SAU, school, and student level. We anticipate that these new reports will be available to SAUs by the end of this month, October 2023.

Resources

Maine Science Assessment resources, including released items and achievement level descriptors, can be found on Maine DOE's [Maine Science Assessment](#) webpage.

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and MSAA Science

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Jodi Bossio-Smith**

[Contact Jodi](#)

The MSAA (ELA & math) and MSAA Science are Maine's alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards, designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who have been found eligible by the IEP Team utilizing state guidance resources. To learn more about these assessments including eligibility and federal requirements, please visit the [Maine DOE 1% Resource Page](#).

The **Overview of Maine's Alternate Assessments (AA-AAAS)** training took place on Monday, September 11th and was well attended by directors, alternate assessment coordinators, and educators of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

If you missed the training, please review the resources here:

[View the recording](#)

[View the slide deck](#)

National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: **Dr. Regina Lewis**

[Contact Regina](#)

NAEP 2024 For Selected SAUs and Schools

Additional information pertaining to the NAEP administration has been provided to all selected schools. This includes the scheduled date of the assessment as well as the methods for designating a NAEP School Coordinator and an Onsite Technology Coordinator. While DACs and Principals are welcome to request access to the new NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS), it is imperative that the School Coordinator and Onsite Technology Coordinator register, login, and monitor the AMS to complete the preparatory steps for administration of the assessment.

- *School Coordinator* – Serves as the primary contact at the school. The NAEP Assessment Teams will work with the School Coordinator to complete the steps related to student participation.
- *Onsite Technology Coordinator* – works with the NAEP Assessment Team to complete the steps to prepare the school's internet for administration of the assessment. The NAEP devices will need to have secure access as well as the necessary bandwidth to administer the assessment.
- Both the School Coordinator and the Onsite Technology Coordinator should be onsite to greet the NAEP Assessment Team and remain onsite for the administration of the assessment.

****Please reach out to the principals and/or School Coordinators to verify that they have received an invitation to register for the NAEP AMS from DoNotReply-NAEP@westatstudies.com.**

- ***It is important that DoNotReply-NAEP@westatstudies.com is on the safelist or whitelist for the district/school.***
- ***Please have all staff that will be accessing the NAEP AMS check their junk mail/spam if the invitation to register has not been received.***
- ***The link in the invitation is time sensitive.***
- ***If the email invitation cannot be located, please reach out to Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov or (207) 530-1355.***

The National Center of Education Statistics has a long-term goal of remotely administering NAEP assessments through a device agnostic platform. For the NAEP 2024 administration, selected students will take an assessment in one subject on a NAEP-owned device such as a Chromebook or Microsoft Surface Pro tablet. The NAEP Assessment Teams will bring all of the devices and provide the staff or administration of the assessment. This year NAEP will use school-based Internet to conduct the assessment.

The NAEP Assessment Management System (AMS) has been completely redesigned. As you work through the preparatory steps for the upcoming administration, please provide feedback about what is and what is not working. If you have suggestions, tips, or have developed helpful resources, please reach out to Dr. Regina Lewis at regina.lewis@maine.gov. The NAEP AMS is continuously being updated with "just in time" additions for the next steps in preparation for the assessment.

October NAEP Nugget:

There is more than one type of Random Sampling. NAEP Schools are selected using a Systematic Random Sampling design with Probability Proportional to Size. This method assists with ensuring that the sample of schools and students selected for NAEP are representative of the population of students in the grades 4 and 8. Larger schools are more likely to be selected, but the students within those schools have a lower probability of selection.

International Assessments

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Regina Lewis

[Contact Regina](#)

What's up and coming with the International Assessments:

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

PISA 2025 will focus on science and include a new assessment of foreign languages. It will also include the innovative domain of Learning in the Digital World which aims to measure students' ability to engage in self-regulated learning while using digital tools. Learn more at <https://www.oecd.org/pisa/>

Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2024

TALIS is a survey about teachers, teaching, and learning environments. TALIS offers teachers and principals the opportunity to provide their perspectives on education in the United States. TALIS 2024 will be conducted in spring 2024. Learn more at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/talis/>.

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator: Jodi Bossio-Smith

[Contact Jodi](#)

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are Maine's state assessments of English language proficiency. To learn more about these assessments, please visit the Maine DOE [ACCESS for ELLs information page](#).

Save the Date for Fall 2023 ACCESS Assessment Trainings offered by the Maine DOE Assessment Team:

Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the ACCESS Assessment

Monday October 23rd, 3-4pm [Register for the session here](#)

Maine Educational Assessments Calendar SY 23-24

Assessment	Dates	Content Area	Participants	
ACCESS FOR ELLS (general)	1/8/24 – 3/1/24	English language proficiency	Multilingual learners in grades K-12	
ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLS (alternate)			Multilingual learners in grades K-12 with the most significant cognitive disabilities	
Maine Through Year Assessment (general)	Fall: September- October 10/2/23 – 10/27/23	Reading and mathematics	Students in grades 3-8 and 2 nd year of HS	
	Winter (optional): 1/2/24 – 2/16/24			
	Spring: 4/22/24 – 5/31/24			
Multi-State Alternate Assessment - MSAA (alternate)	3/11/24 – 4/26/24		R/LA and mathematics	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and 3 rd year of HS
MSAA Science (alternate)			Science	Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and 3 rd year of HS
Maine Science (general)	5/13/24 - 5/24/24		Science	Students in grades 5, 8 and 3 rd year of HS
National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP)	1/29/24 – 3/8/24		Reading and mathematics Science (grade 8 only)	Students in selected schools in grades 4, 8 & 12