

## 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.



## 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.

## Certification of NWEA Data in MAARS

NWEA data is now available in the MAARS platform for district review. This review period began Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and will close on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During this time, district staff should ensure demographics, participation or non-participation of students and subsequent and associated assessment data are correct and present. District and student quick reports are now available for review. All current DACs as documented in MAARS should have log in credentials. If you are experiencing challenges logging into MAARS, please reach out to FocalPoint K-12 support at [support@focalpointK12.net](mailto:support@focalpointK12.net).

Science data will be forthcoming. As benchmarking and standard setting have not yet been established, the data will be raw data and will not be included in the Individual Student Reports (ISRs).

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## 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.

### Essential Reports for Administrators and Educators (NWEA)

Once you've administered your MAP Growth assessments, get hands-on with your reports. Learn to access, interpret, and apply rich data. Plan how to use your MAP Growth data to inform ongoing work and school- and district-related decisions.

#### Learning Targets

- Access, interpret, and apply key MAP Growth reports that school and district administrators use for planning
- Help your team interpret and apply data by conducting powerful strengths-based conversations
- Make decisions that inform school improvement planning and resource allocation with MAP Growth status and growth data

**Register for Essential Reports for Administrators & Educators –**  
Four sessions in October.

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### 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.

#### 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 –** Five sessions October through November

## 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](#)

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### 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 for Applying Reports 2** – Six sessions October through November.

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### NWEA Fall Assessment Administration

The NWEA state assessment window opens on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and remains open through October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As a reminder, text-to-speech will be disabled for the reading assessment during this window but is available for SAUs to use locally in the broader assessment window of August 15<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the language usage session will be required during the fall 2021 and spring 2022 assessment administration windows. The full assessment calendar is available on the [assessment calendar page](#) on the Maine DOE website.

### Changes to Availability of Read Aloud Functionality for Fall NWEA Administration

As we enter and finalize preparations for the second administration of the NWEA assessment, we are pleased to share that for students who use read aloud accessibility / accommodations as outlined within an IEP or 504 plan for classroom instruction, will be able to use read aloud accessibility / functionality for the reading of directions, questions, and answer choices within the NWEA reading session. **Reading session passages may not be read aloud.** The read aloud accommodation requires provision of a trained 1:1 support person and should not be utilized in group settings.

## 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 read 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.bossio-smith@maine.gov

At this time, functionality within the MARC platform does not delineate the availability of Text to Speech (TTS) for reading of directions, questions and answer choices and not the reading passages therefore, as a result, TTS remains unavailable in the MARC platform for the reading session during the state administration window of October 4<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. TTS remains available as outlined within an IEP or 504 plan for classroom instruction for the mathematics and language use sessions.

An **informational session** regarding details of NWEA Read Aloud is now available.

## NWEA Session Re-Administration Policy & Process Update Fall 2021

The process for re-administering any of the three (3) NWEA sessions (Math, Reading, Language Use) will be different from Spring 2021 when requests were submitted via email. We have developed a **Re-administration Qualtrics** Survey to simplify the process.

**NEW:** This survey and format are **not** intended to ask or receive permission for the re-administration of a NWEA session. The Department's goal is to collect data regarding these occurrences to better plan support and professional development that we can provide to the field.



## NWEA - How to Move Students Between Districts

For state-contracted SAUs, NWEA has created a tool, the Student Data Transfer form, to support the need to transfer students (and their data) from one SAU to another within the state, or to remove student data from the SAU and allow it to be used by a future SAU.

This tool will facilitate the move of all student data in the NWEA databases, including demographic information and assessment results,

## Special Considerations Module:

The assessment team is currently working with the data and OIT teams to revise permissions related to the special consideration module within NEO. As a direct result of feedback within the assessment survey, we are working to add the role of DAC to the applicable permissions. There was some interest in the special education director and technology director also having access to the module however, in an effort to maintain consistency and limit broad access, we are currently pausing providing additional access however, superintendents are able to request additional designees be added to the module at any time. Information on how to request access for additional designees can be located on the MEDMS Helpdesk – [Request access page](#).

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from one SAU to another. Either the departing SAU (where the student data currently resides) or the destination SAU (where the student data needs to move) can request the transfer. This tool is not intended to move a student from school to school within a SAU. [Student Data Transfers: District to District FAQ](#).

## Assessment Lunch & Learn Office Hours for 2021-2022

The Maine Department of Education assessment team will continue - assessment office hours again on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12 noon. Moving forward, based on survey feedback, office hours will be provided once per month with the schedule adjusting to bi-weekly and weekly as needed during assessment administration. Topics within the upcoming October office hours include the importance on update of enrollment ordering process for ACCESS, PISA window closing October 29<sup>th</sup> and a survey to Special Education Directors to identify alternate AC's for each SAU. A calendar of potential topics is posted to the [resources page](#) on the Maine DOE assessment webpages [Registration for these sessions is now available](#).



## Security

Assessment security is essential to obtain reliable and valid assessment data to inform decision making and to support Maine schools. Accordingly, the Maine Department of Education takes necessary steps to assure the security and confidentiality of the state assessment materials. District Assessment Coordinator (DACs) and School Assessment Coordinators should provide appropriate training for all personnel involved in assessment to ensure a common understanding of security and appropriate assessment practices. Guidance regarding Maine's assessment security procedures can be located in the [Maine Educational Assessment Security Handbook \(PDF\)](#). **Please ensure all ACs and assessment administrators are familiar with the policies and procedures contained within the handbook.**

## 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

October 13, 2021 @ 2:00

Join us on Zoom

Topics we will cover include:

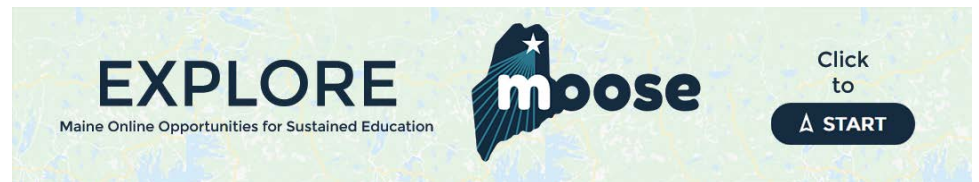
- How to Retrieve ISRs from MAARS
- How to Check ACCESS
- NAEP Parent Notification
- NWEA Trainings

Plus More!

[To See Our Full Schedule for Lunch & Learn Office Hours](#)

## Annual MEA Parent Letter

The team has been diligently working to update the annual MEA assessment parent letter template for SAU use. The letter, which can be exported onto school letterhead, outlines the assessments to be administered during the 2021/22 school year. Recognizing schools can determine the administration dates of the NWEA assessment within the state identified assessment administration window (e.g. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>), the team elected to not include assessment window timeframes. This letter has been translated in Maine's ten (10) most used languages. All letters can be located within the family resources accordion on the [Supports and Resources page](#).



## ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

### Important Updates - Materials ordering for SY 21-22

This year, Maine DOE will coordinate the materials ordering process for ACCESS assessments in each SAU. This change in procedure is intended to support SAUs and provide EL educators and coordinators more critically needed instructional time with students. **Materials orders will be generated based on SAU level enrollment data [EL Start Date]**. Additionally, if there are English learners who will be participating in Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please confirm the following with the Special Education Director/Case Manager:

- Alternate assessment is indicated in the student's most recent IEP
- The alternate assessment flag has been "checked" in the student's enrollment record in Synergy for SY 21-22

For English learners who will require paper-based materials per their 504 plan or IEP accommodations, please complete the [Paper Materials Request Form](#) and return to assessment coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith: [jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov)

SAUs will have the opportunity to order materials for newly arrived ELs and ELs who have transferred, during the additional materials ordering window, which will be open in WIDA AMS 12/15/21 – 2/25/22. To request a paper-based or Braille form of the ACCESS for ELLs, please contact assessment coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith: [jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov).

## 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.

## MSAA & MSAA Science

All students who participate in the alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards [AA-AAS] **must** have the alternate flag checked in Synergy. 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.

## Important Alternate Assessment Resources

**MSAA States** – includes assessment information and alternate achievement standards

**MSAA Platform** - includes sample items, teachers' guides, and technology requirements

**Alternate Assessment Timeline for SY 21-22** – a guide to planning for alternate assessments

**Alternate Assessment Participation Checklist** – a guide for IEP teams in the criteria and documentation to determine if a student is eligible for alternate assessments

## National Assessment of Educational Progress

Preparations for NAEP 2022 have begun. Schools and districts selected for participation in the assessment were notified in September. A school coordinator should be designated and providing information about the school in the "Provide School Information" section. As you continue to provide information please include any students that are receiving 100% remote instruction as well as those that receive in person instruction at least one day per week. This year's assessment 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.

## Why are the Same Schools in the Sample Again?

Many of the schools were in the sample last year, particularly those that participated in the STQ Study and Monthly School Survey. Even though the NAEP 2021 student assessments were postponed due to the pandemic, these sampled schools still provided critical data through the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey and the NAEP School and Teacher Questionnaire Study. The NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the 2022 student population while also maximizing overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample. Maximizing the overlapping school samples between NAEP 2022 and 2021 opens up the possibility of studying student performance, as measured by NAEP, within the unique context provided by the two NAEP studies that were administered in the 2020–2021 school year.

## The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021

A small number of Maine schools have 15-year-old students that have been selected for to participate in the PISA 2021 assessment during the September 20<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 window. The PISA Field Teams are working with the schools to assist with the preparation and administration activities. PISA measures 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.