

Assessment Office Hours Lunch & Learn Q & A September 15, 2021

General

I have had several teachers reach out to me about a recent email they received about Focalpoint. Many cannot access the site. Can you provide information about these emails and Focalpoint?

An annual process to protect the security of the system and student data is the resetting of roster user passwords. As such, emails were sent to current roster users within the MAARS system. The resetting of passwords ensures the staff member remains employed at the district. If SAU staff are experiencing challenges resetting passwords, please reach out to FocalPoint support at: support@focalpointk12.net. To add or remove users, please refer to the [User Management Guide](#).

When will families receive spring 2021 assessment data and what will they receive?

SAUs currently have access to NWEA data within the MARC platform and ACCESS data within the DRC platform. Currently within the MAARS platform, MSAA and ACCESS are under SAU review. This review concludes Tuesday, September 21st, 2021. We are hopeful NWEA data will be in the MAARS platform beginning Monday, September 20th, 2021, for SAU review. This review will conclude on Monday, October 4, 2021. Once all data elements have been included and reviewed by SAU staff, the Individual Student Report (ISR) will be populated. This is tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

NWEA

What options are available in NWEA for students who “hit the ceiling”. For example, we have a 7th grader who has done so already.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are required to participate in the Map Growth 2 -5 assessment during the state administration window of October 4 – 29. Students in grades 6, 7, 8 and 3rd year of high school are required to participate in the Map Growth 6+ during the state administration window. As the assessment is adaptable, there are items available to stretch and challenge students above and/or below grade level.

NWEA Is there a cost to the district if they want to test during the Winter administration?

No, there is no additional cost. The Maine DOE has purchased a license for each student grades 3 – 8 and 3rd year of high school. As a reminder, if a SAU would like to use the NWEA for a student in their 2nd year of high school, the Maine DOE also covers those costs. As such, the assessment is required to be administered in fall 2021 and spring 2022. The winter 2022 administration is optional (Maine DOE does not receive the data) as is the use of NWEA for progressing monitoring outside of the state administration window of October 4th – 29th.

Does NWEA offer a progress monitoring tool (shorter assessment) for schools?

NWEA offers course level assessments such as Algebra and Geometry in addition to screeners. We recommend using the MAP growth assessment for the applicable content area for progress monitoring outside of the state administration window.

For NWEA, will the Kiosk app be required, or can we use the web-based testing client like last year?

The Maine DOE strongly encourages the use of the application where possible as this is the most secure method of administration. If using the application is not possible, the web-based browser can be used.

NAEP

Our Return to School plan restricts outside visitors to our school when we are in a high transmission area. How will that work?

NAEP field staff will work with each school to determine the best plan of action. During the four months prior to the assessment, please complete and update the responses to the questions pertaining to the pandemic on the MyNAEP platform. The field staff and I will continue to work with schools from now through the completion of the assessment window. Starting in December, schools will have direct contact with the NAEP assessment coordinator who will assist with addressing these concerns. Please see the current NAEP 2022 COVID 19 Protocols at the link below.

- NAEP 2022 COVID 19 Protocols
https://docs.mynaep.com/myschool/documents/NAEP_COVID19_Protocols.pdf

If we were selected for NAEP testing...would we know that by now?

NAEP schools selected in the initial round of sampling were notified by Friday, September 18, 2021. Additional schools may still be added to the sample.

Is there a plan for if our school is in a remote setting at that time?

Depending on the scheduled assessment date and the amount of time left in the administration window, the NAEP assessment coordinator will work with the school coordinator to reschedule the assessment. If that is not possible, the school will not be penalized.

US CDC recommendations talk about limiting non-essential visitors, and the interpretation has been that services and assessments are not part of the recommendation.

The US Department of Education and the US CDC are continuing to work together to make this determination. Additional guidance will be provided over the next few months.

ACCESS for ELLs

Have I heard correctly that International Students are now asked to take the ACCESS exams?

All students attending a Maine public school (including international exchange students) must undergo the statewide EL identification process. The reason is that the public school is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin. The student's immigration status has no bearing on the school's obligation to identify and serve all students who are ELs. You can

find information about this in [Administrative Letter 27](#), which explains the major requirements around identification, services, and assessment of students who are ELs.