

Questions & Answers:

Maine Through Year Assessment Administration Webinars

Maine Through Year Assessment Overview

Resources

- [Maine Through Year Assessment DOE webpage](#)
- [Student Tutorial](#)
- [Item Type Sampler](#)

Questions

Are schools required to test three times a year?

Schools are required to assess in the fall and spring. Winter is optional.

Will there be different student tutorial videos for appropriate grade spans?

There is one student tutorial video applicable to all grades.

Is there a password required for the sampler?

The item sampler does not require a password.

Did you say the students are selecting their accommodations in the Item Type Sampler?

Students have the option to select text-to-speech (TTS) or no TTS in the Item Type Sampler. For the actual assessment, the District or School Assessment Coordinator would assign TTS to the student.

Are the item type sampler items akin to 'released items'?

The items in the sampler are not live items but are intended to allow students to practice using the software, tools and accommodations available. It is not intended to have students study the content. At this time, NWEA does not release items from their assessments.

Technology Readiness

Resources

- [NWEA State Solutions System and Technology Guide](#)
- [NWEA State Solutions System Requirements Guide](#)
- [Online Readiness Checker / State Solutions Secure Browser Download](#)
- [Platform and Software Maintenance Windows](#)

Question

Will the new secure lockdown browser overwrite the old browser?

No, the State Solution Secure Browser is a separate application from the MAP Growth Secure Browser. You can have both present on your devices.

Assessment Management in Acacia

Resources

- [Maine's Assessment Security Handbook](#)
- [Maine School State Codes \(ME DOE Infrastructure Site\)](#)

Questions

If we conducted security training in the fall, do we need conduct a new training this spring?

No, you do not need to conduct a new security training. Please keep all signed Security and Data Privacy Agreements on file.

Should we see the Maine Through Year link in the NWEA MARC platform now?

It will be available on April 3.

If we are using MAP Growth or MAP Reading Fluency will they also be available at that same landing page?

Yes, those assessments will still be available on the MAP Growth landing page, and Maine Through Year will be added to that list starting April 3.

Do proctor groups need to be uploaded when the student rosters are uploaded?

No, they can be added at a later time.

Student ID uses the Maine State Student ID?

Yes, there is a State Student ID field when rostering in MAP Growth to use the Maine State Student ID.

Can you provide clarification on where we edit student demographics?

You will continue to edit in Synergy, which then syncs with Neo.

Are students grouped by grade level by default?

Yes, both test sessions and reports can automatically be viewed by grade, but groups can allow you to view a more specific grouping of students, such as their classes.

Are proctor groups needed so proctors can see /monitor progress of students they proctor, or is that done differently?

While groups are not required, yes, this can help proctors view a shorter list of only the students they are proctoring. Proctoring for Maine Through Year does not require proctors to take actions on their own device to log students into the system as with MAP Growth.

Will students use the same test ticket throughout their testing years?

No, a new test ticket is generated with every assessment administration window. New test tickets are also generated with assessment resets.

Accessibility

Resource

- [Maine Through Year Accessibility Guide \(Draft Form\)](#)

Questions

Do you give a paper copy of the Math Reference tool, or is it expected that they access it digitally?

You can provide a paper copy if you prefer. The pdf can be found on our Maine Through Year Assessment website under Resources: https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/NWEA

Can the Color Contrast be turned off? This is something the students always get distracted by and tend to play around with, constantly changing the screen colors.

As an embedded universal tool within NWEA's assessment platform, color-contrast cannot be turned off for specific students.

How will braille assessments be requested?

Under the student's profile, Braille can be assigned as an accommodation for the subject(s) needed. This will trigger the shipment of the braille test materials to the school.

Did I hear you correctly that the School or Assessment Coordinator will need to enter the accommodations?

A District Assessment Coordinator or School Assessment Coordinator will be able to enter accommodations for a student.

Will accommodations from the fall assessment of the NWEA role over with the student?

No, accommodations must be assigned for each student and each subject area for each term.

Not-Tested Codes

Questions

Is there a particular form for parents to use for the refusal request?

Local SAU policy determines the process for managing parent refusals. Please be aware, however, that these students are still considered non-participants, even if PAR is entered as an NTC.

Do you need a NTC for all students that miss a test session?

No. NTCs should only be used for students who do not complete any part of the Reading or Math assessment. Incomplete assessments should not have an NTC applied.

What if a student is absent? Is there a code for that?

The assessment administration window is May 1-26. If a student experiences a medical emergency that results in an absence during the entire four-week window, a special considerations request form should be submitted through the Neo portal. (Here is [more information about Special Considerations Requests.](#))

What code is used in the event a student does not have time to finish the assessment?

Maine DOE recommends assessing towards the beginning of the four-week window so that all students have time to finish the assessment. There is not a not-tested code for this.

We have a few special education students that take a long time to assess, and also have absence issues, so a few times they have not finished one of the 3 assessments.

For the Through Year Assessment, there are only two sections: Math and Reading. To count as a participant and receive a Maine-specific scaled score, a student must complete 25% of all operational (scored) questions from the summative portion of the assessment. (Due to field test and diagnostic questions, this is not necessarily the same as the first 25% of questions.) To obtain a RIT score, a student must complete the entire assessment.

Preparing and Monitoring the Assessment

Resource

- [How to Move Students Between Districts in the MAP Growth Platform](#)

Questions

When will the DOE roster students for the Through Year Assessment?

ME DOE is submitting the initial roster file on March 24.

Will student records be in the system as of April 3?

Yes, Maine DOE will provide a roster from NEO to add student records into Acacia for the Maine Through Year assessment before 4/3. As NEO will be the source of this data, all student records should be synced to NEO regularly.

Will the student roster that the state is using to import to ACACIA/MARC be available to districts so the same roster is imported to NWEA?

ME DOE will be utilizing the assessment rosters available in NEO.

What if we roster our NWEA data with Clever?

You can continue to use Clever to roster for MAP Growth, and the roster in Acacia for the Maine Through Year assessment will be imported by the Maine DOE. You do not need to change how you roster.

Are SPED students marked as “Alternate Assessment” in the special education section of Synergy uploaded by the state?

Students marked as participants in the alternate assessment do not appear in the rosters for the Maine Through Year Assessment.

You want us to exit a student without a request of records?

This is Maine DOE policy, per our Maine Comprehensive Assessment System Guidelines: https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/MECAS_Guidelines_2022-23_VF%20%281%29.pdf

Can students be tested remotely?

No, students cannot be tested remotely.

Do students need to finish an assessment in one day?

No, the assessment is designed to be untimed and can be completed over multiple days. Proctors should not pace students.

Is the registration report similar to the roster file?

Yes, the Registration Report is provided as an export of which students have been rostered into the Acacia platform. Accommodations and Not-Tested Codes can be added to this file and uploaded to assign them to students in bulk.

I read in one of the guides that all phones and smart watches will need to be collected by the proctor. Can they be placed on the desks in full view of the teachers?

Students should not have access to additional devices during the assessment. This is why we require that either proctors collect those devices or that the devices do not enter the testing room (e.g., stay in the student's locker). The latter is preferable wherever possible.

Where can we find the file formats for various imports (registrations, groups, etc.)?

They will be available in the Management System, via the Help link, on April 3.

And can we assign/reassign groups after testing session occur?

Yes.

Are test tickets the same for both Math and Reading? Or do tickets need to be printed for each test?

A test ticket is needed for each subject, as they provide different login credentials for each test.

If students go too fast, do they still get the sloth to slow down?

This feature is not available on the Maine Through Year assessment.

Regional and Out-of-State Programs

Questions

No questions

Proctor/Student Experience

Question

Do proctors have to be rostered anywhere in the platform?

User accounts and roles are taken from the MAP Growth system and the same login is used. Any new users or updates to roles will need to be made in MAP Growth.

Operational Reports

Question

In MAP we had a student without valid test result report, is there one for this assessment?

You can use the Testing Status Report to get a .csv export of all students and their testing status. Statuses such as Not Started or In Progress would indicate which students have not completed testing.

Data & Reporting

Questions

Can students be in multiple groups for reporting purposes?

Yes, students can be added to multiple groups to view on reports.

Will the RIT from Acacia sync with MAP growth?

Yes, you will be able to view Map Growth reports created from Acacia test events in the fall.

When will we receive RIT scores?

For spring 2023, RIT scores will be available in a preliminary student results file in the Acacia platform in July 2023. For all future administrations (fall 2023 and beyond), NWEA has indicated that you can access RIT scores in their platform within 24 to 48 hours.

Who will have access to student reports? Will teachers be able to?

Yes, teachers can view reports. Creating Student Groups and assigning teachers is the best way to allow them to view their classes.

Will these RIT scores sync with the learning continuum report in MAP growth?

No, they will not. The Learning Continuum uses MAP Growth Learning Statements, which are not aligned to the state assessment design. Reports that leverage the Learning Continuum and/or Learning Statement results will not display this information.

Will they sync with MAP Accelerator?

We are currently exploring solutions to use results from the Maine Through Year Assessment to inform learning paths in MAP Accelerator.

If reports are a pdf, how can one resort by column?

Reports are visible in the online reporting system, and once filters and sorting is applied, can then be generated into a PDF.

Preparation, Resources, and Tips

Resources

- [NWEA State Solutions System and Technology Guide](#)
- [Maine Assessment Security Handbook](#)

Question

Are all the documents (manuals and guides) in final form, yet?

Although the System and Tech Guide is in its final form, the remaining manuals and guides are in draft form. The final form may contain new hyperlinks (currently missing), new screenshots, or minor changes to assessment administration scripts. The core content will not change. Final versions will be posted by April 3rd.

Communication and Partner Support

ME DOE Contact Information: Krista Averill, Assessment Coordinator

- Krista.Averill@maine.gov
- (207) 215-6528

NWEA Partner Support Contact Information

- (855) 430-1777
- Days & hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST

Questions

Are you creating parent letter explaining the new assessment?

Yes. This [letter is now available on our webpage](#) and will be included in the next update email to DACs and the listserv.