

Q&A: Maine Through Year Assessment Coordinator Training

September 7 and 12, 2023

Resources

- [Presentation slides](#)
- [NWEA Maine Connection website](#)
- [Maine DOE Maine Through Year Assessment webpage](#)
- [Maine Assessment Security Website](#): Please access the Assessment Security Handbook through this webpage to ensure that you are viewing the most up-to-date version.
- [Maine Comprehensive Assessment \(MECAS\) System Guidelines](#): Please scroll past the introductory graphic and text to access the pdf. Please access the MECAS Guidelines through this webpage to ensure that you are viewing the most up-to-date version.
- [Fall 2023 Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

If we installed the MTYA app (State Solutions Secure Browser) on all devices in the spring, do we need to reinstall now?

Users will need to uninstall the older version of the NWEA State Solutions Secure Browser and reinstall the new version of the Secure Browser to ensure devices are ready. In addition, Maine DOE and NWEA recommend testing the secure browser by using the Item Type Sampler found within the secure lockdown browser.

For MAP Growth, for 2nd grade assessments, and Language, do we need to uninstall and reinstall that one too?

You do not need to uninstall/reinstall the MAP Growth browser.

If the bandwidth supported the test last spring, will it automatically support this fall?

NWEA recommends testing your bandwidth prior to the fall assessment even if the spring 2023 administration was supported.

How soon will the DOE roster the students? How soon can we add the support/accommodations?

Maine DOE began the rostering process in Acacia on September 6th using the information provided by the SAU in Synergy. New roster files are automatically generated each weekday at 8:00pm including all new student information entered into Synergy that day; this roster file is uploaded the following weekday morning at approximately 8:00am.

Once we have made groups, when will be able to print tickets?

Test tickets can be printed now.

In the future, is it possible to have the group name on the test ticket?

NWEA will look into what is doable in the future.

Will we still have the math formula sheet that we should distribute to students?

The Math Reference Sheet is a universal tool that will be provided within the secure lockdown browser. In addition, a paper-based copy can be printed and provided to students if the SAU prefers paper-based copies. Here is a link to the [printable pdf](#).

Text-to-speech (TTS) can only be used if TTS is used as part of the student's regular instruction, correct?

TTS is considered a designated support. All designated supports have two criteria that must both be true in order to be provided to the student:

1. An educational team with knowledge of the student's performance has determined using the designated support (e.g., TTS) is appropriate for that student. An educational team is defined as two or more education professionals (e.g., teacher, instructional coach, building administrator) with knowledge of a student's performance.
2. Designated supports must be consistent with the student's normal routine during classroom instruction.

If students regularly use multiplication charts, are they able to use them during the assessment?

Multiplication charts are considered a Mathematical Support, which is a designated support. All designated supports have two criteria that must both be true in order to be provided to the student:

1. An educational team with knowledge of the student's performance has determined that using the designated support (e.g., multiplication chart) is appropriate for that student. An educational team is defined as two or more education professionals (e.g., teacher, instructional coach, building administrator) with knowledge of a student's performance.
2. Designated supports must be consistent with the student's normal routine during classroom instruction.

Are the paper item type samplers available to anyone, or still considered an accommodation?

The paper-based item type sampler pdfs are available on both the Maine DOE's website as well as the NWEA Connection page. Although you may choose to use the paper-based item type samplers with any of your students, paper-based item type samplers will not allow your students to become familiar with the assessment platform, navigation, or embedded universal tools.

When will the reports become available in the Online Reporting System in Acacia with Spring 2023 data?

Spring 2023 Maine Through Year Assessment results data will be available according to the following timeline:

- **Thursday, September 28:** The complete Student Score Data File, containing both Maine-specific scaled scores and RIT scores, is available in Operational Reports. This is a csv file.
- **Monday, October 2:** Access to the Online Reporting System with both aggregated reports and Individual Student Reports becomes available.

At this time, the Student Scores tab is no longer visible in Acacia as it was not functional. The Student Scores tab will reappear on October 2 when access to the Online Reporting System opens.

When will “real-time” reports will be available this fall?

Starting in fall 2023, reports will be available in the Acacia platform within 48-72 hours. These are considered “real-time” reports.

Reports will be available in the MAP Growth platform, for those SAUs who take the additional step of rostering their students in the MAP Growth platform, after the district and state cleanup windows, approximately 2 weeks after the close of the administration window.

As DAC, should I see the "View Reports" shortcut icon in Acacia? That is missing. Or is it missing until reports are available?

The "View Reports" shortcut icon was not functional and consequently was disabled until reports become available in the Online Reporting System on October 2. At that time, you will once again see the “View Reports” shortcut icon.

Is there a way to see Instructional Area RIT at a level above the Individual Level? (Class/Group, School, District)? Is there a way to see Item Response information (Difficulty, Standard, etc.) as a level above the Individual level? (Class/Group, School, District)?

Not yet. Both are tentatively planned on roadmaps for the 2024-25 school year.

To clarify, instructional area scores will show up in MAP reports for the MTYA on Oct. 2?

Yes, Instructional Area scores will appear in MAP Growth reports with Through Year Assessment RIT data on October 2.

Will Acacia reports will show a state percentile, not nationwide?

Acacia reports will include both RIT scores and Maine-specific scale scores. RIT scores will be associated with national achievement and growth percentiles as in the past. No percentile will be reported for the Maine-specific scaled score. State, SAU, and school averages will be reported, however.

I see the itemized question report for the individual student. Is there a way for us to see that information at a larger level, like school or district, to look for trends in types of questions our students have difficulty with or academic strands, etc. ??

Itemized question reports are available only at the individual student level.

Should I be looking at reports in MAP Growth or in Acacia?

Only reports in Acacia will contain the Maine-specific scaled score and associated achievement level of Well Below, Below, At, or Above State Expectations.

RIT score results can be viewed in both the MAP Growth platform and Acacia, but the reports in MAP Growth do have more detailed information than those in Acacia.

Security training: Do the proctors, if trained last spring, need to go through security training again for the fall?

Each year assessment coordinators and proctors are required to complete assessment security training. The required Assessment Security videos can be found here: https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/materials/security. For your convenience, here are the direct links to the videos as well:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#)
- Maine Through Year Assessment: [Required Proctor Training Video](#)

Can 1st and 2nd graders take this test?

The Maine Through Year Assessment has been developed for those grade levels that are required by the Every Student Succeeds Act to participate in state assessments: grades 3 through 8 and one year of high school. SAUs may purchase NWEA's other assessment products, such as MAP Growth, for use with students not in the grades that are required to assess.

How do we notify the DOE of NTCs?

SAUs will not need to notify the DOE of NTCs. NTCs are used to determine which students should be excluded from aggregated reports, and those decisions are made based on eligibility and invalidations. PAR (parent refusal) and STR (student refusal) will no longer be used as NTCs.

Do foreign exchange students need to assess?

The following is from the 2023-24 Maine Comprehensive Assessment System (MECAS) Guidelines:

2.9 International Students

2.9.1 All students in assessed grades at Maine’s public, magnet, and charter schools, as well as those at private schools serving at least 60% publicly funded students, must be assessed. Students from another country, whether their tuition is paid privately or covered by an exchange program, are required to participate in the MEA.

2.9.2 International students (that are not part of an exchange program) attending public schools in Maine must be enrolled in Synergy State Edition with the resident or responsible SAU as “NonMaine SAU” and with a fiscal responsibility of “Paid by Other Source.”

2.9.3 Maine public schools and public SAUs are NOT accountable for the students from other countries who attend Maine schools through privately paid tuition. They will not count in Maine’s accountability system for either participation or performance. Individual student reports will be made available for distribution through the Maine public school.

2.9.4 Maine public schools and SAUs are accountable for the students from other countries who attend Maine’s schools as part of an exchange program. Exchange students should be enrolled in Synergy State Edition with the resident or responsible SAU. Exchange program students will count in Maine’s accountability system for both participation and performance on MEA.

The most recent version of the MECAS Guidelines can be found on this page, below the introductory text: https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS

Is there a date in which a new student from out of state comes to a Maine school to be exempt from testing?

SAUs are not required to assess newly enrolled students who have not yet started the Through Year Assessment if the student enrolls after October 20. If a student has previously started the Through Year Assessment at another Maine SAU, the SAU should make every effort to have the student finish the assessment. Any concerns regarding this should be communicated to Krista Averill, at Krista.Averill@maine.gov