



Maine Through Year Assessment Update

August 7, 2024

About the Maine Through Year Assessment

What is assessed?

Maine's accountability standards: the Common Core State Standards in Reading and Math

Who participates in the Maine Through Year Assessment?

Students in grades 3-8 and 2nd year of high school

What is the format of the assessment?

Online (Paper-based forms are available as an accommodation per an IEP or 504 plan.)

When is the assessment given?

- Fall (Required): September 16, 2024 - October 25, 2024
- Winter (Optional): January 6, 2025 - February 14, 2025
- Spring (Required): April 14, 2025 - May 30, 2025 (*The spring administration will be closed April 21-25 for spring break.*)

Assessments are untimed and can be split into multiple sessions as needed.

Please see the [Maine DOE Assessment Team Calendar](#) for the complete 2024-25 assessment schedule.

Who do I contact with any questions?

Krista Averill: Reading, Math, and Science Assessment Coordinator, Krista.Averill@maine.gov and (207) 215-6528

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August Assessment Team Office Hour

Monday, August 19 at 12:00 PM: [Registration Link](#)

To accommodate summer schedules and provide timely information before the start of the 2024-25 school year, the Assessment Team will be holding a summer office hour on August 19.

In September, the Assessment Team will resume office hours on the second Wednesday of every month at 12:00 PM. A registration link for our school-year office hours will be available soon!

Spring 2024 Student Scores: Data Validation

The spring administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment produces two score types in reading and math:

- the Maine-specific scale score, which measures students' proficiency according to grade-level state standards
- the RIT score, which provides useful information regarding student growth over time

The portions of the spring assessment that contribute to the generation of each score vary slightly. Some questions contribute to both the Maine-specific scale score and RIT score whereas others contribute only to the RIT score. Because there are questions on the assessment that contribute only to RIT score determination, it is possible for there to be differences between the two score types in the classification of student achievement, precision and accuracy of the score, and score validity.

Based on observations and feedback from educators and administrators from multiple Maine SAUs regarding RIT scores, Maine DOE requested that NWEA complete additional data validation analyses before the release of finalized Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment student score data.

Although a very small number of SAUs have expressed concern regarding the changing performance of their students according to the Maine-specific scale score from spring 2023, when analyzed further these differences have been local and not reflective of statewide data. Statewide student performance according to the Maine-specific scale score remains consistent with expectations and previous performance as well as aligned with questions selected to measure proficiency according to grade-level state standards. As a result, all data analyses conducted by NWEA focus on the validity of RIT score results. These analyses were delivered by NWEA to Maine DOE on July 31.

Maine DOE has reviewed the analyses provided by NWEA. Further collaborative discussions between Maine DOE and NWEA regarding the analyses conducted are continuing at this time. As a result, **the release of the Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment Student Score Data Files and Individual Student Reports (ISRs) continues to be delayed**. Please note that although student results data were available within 72 hours in the Acacia platform, assessment results are not considered final until after data validation processes. Maine DOE continues to work with NWEA to address concerns regarding Spring 2024 RIT scores before finalization of scores and delivery of the SSDFs to SAUs.

Updates to the field with specific timelines for release of finalized data will be provided as they become available. In addition to the work being completed by NWEA, Maine DOE has analyzed student RIT score data from fall and spring of academic years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 to look at long-term trends in achievement and growth. Maine DOE will share an overview of the data analyses completed by NWEA as well

as the results of our review of long-term trends in achievement and growth based on RIT scores. This information will be shared with District Assessment Coordinators via email as well as posted on our Maine Through Year Assessment webpage.

We appreciate your patience as we work to ensure the provision of assessments of the highest quality that provide valid, actionable information for educators across the State of Maine. If you have any questions, please contact the Maine DOE Assessment Coordinator for the Maine Through Year Assessment, Krista Averill, at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or (207) 215-6528.

Fall 2024 Administration: September 16 – October 25, 2024

Acacia Opens on September 3rd

Acacia will open for pre-administration activities on September 3. Students will first be rostered in Acacia on August 30, with daily change files running each business day through the end of the administration window. Students must be enrolled in Synergy in order to be reflected in the school's roster in Acacia. It is the responsibility of the SAU/school to ensure that students are enrolled in Synergy before the first day of the local administration.

The local administration can be scheduled at any time within the six-week state administration window, although it is strongly recommended to reserve the last week of the state window for make-up sessions.

Preparation of Assessment Coordinators

Assessment Security Training

This school year, the 60-minute, synchronous assessment security training for District and School Assessment Coordinators will be replaced by an asynchronous training video. After watching the video and reviewing the Assessment Security Handbook, the Assessment Coordinator will sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement, Appendix A in the Assessment Security Handbook.

The training video and Assessment Security Handbook will be available on the [Maine DOE Assessment Security webpage](#) by August 19.

Maine Through Year Assessment: Assessment Coordinator Training

This school year, the 90-minute, synchronous assessment coordinator training for the Maine Through Year Assessment will be replaced by an asynchronous training module. The training module must be completed by the District and School Assessment Coordinators prior to the local administration of the fall assessment; after successful completion of the module, coordinators will download a certificate of completion to keep on file. The training module will be available at the end of August and will be shared with District Assessment Coordinators.

Maine Through Year Assessment Manuals and Guides

The Fall 2024 manuals and guides will become available on the [NWEA Maine Connection](#) page in late August.

Preparation of Proctors

Assessment Security Training

Proctors of the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments are required to watch two assessment security trainings *once per academic year*:

- [Assessment Security Overview Training Webisode](#) (5 minutes)
- [Assessment Irregularities! What Now? Security Training Webisode](#) (3 minutes)

Proctors of the Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments are required to sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement once per academic year. The agreement is found in Appendix A in the Assessment Security Handbook, which will be available on the [Maine DOE Assessment Security webpage](#) by August 19.

Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video

Proctors of the Maine Through Year Assessment are required to watch the [Maine Through Year Assessment Proctor Training Video](#) (9 minutes) once per academic year prior to administration of the assessment.

Virtual Educator Panel: High School Content & Bias Review

Maine DOE and NWEA are seeking education professionals to participate in the virtual high school content & bias review educator panel.

- **Purpose:** To review questions to ensure assessment material in math and reading is appropriate, free of bias, and aligned to Maine's accountability standards, the Common Core State Standards
- **Dates:** October 22-24, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual, link will be provided by NWEA
- **Stipend:** \$525, includes attendance at all three evening virtual sessions, as well as 8-12 hours of pre-work (\$100 for each virtual evening session and \$225 for completion of pre-work)

If interested, please complete [this registration form](#).

Professional Learning Opportunities

Maine DOE and NWEA have developed several professional learning (PL) opportunities for the 2024-25 school year. Dates and times for fall 2024 sessions can be found on the [NWEA PL registration website](#).

- **NEW! Balanced Assessment Systems for Leaders:** A four-part professional learning series in which participants will deepen knowledge of essential elements for supporting a balanced assessment system and use the elements to inform teaching and learning actions that propel student success with challenging learning goals. Sessions 1 and 2 are offered in the fall. Sessions 3 and 4 will be offered in the spring.
 - Session 1: What are the main definitions and attributes of an effective, balanced assessment system?
 - Session 2: What are best practices for comprehensive assessment planning and improving student outcomes?
 - Session 3: What are strategies for creating and sustaining high-quality assessments?
 - Session 4: How do the benefits of a balanced assessment system relate to local goals and priorities?
- **NEW! Student-Centered Assessment Literacy:** A two-part professional learning series in which participants explore how to build a culture of learning to increase engagement and activate student ownership of learning. This offering provides time and space to review student-centered assessment

literacy guidelines that propel learner success, well-being, and self-efficacy. Both sessions are offered in the fall and winter.

- Session 1: What is assessment literacy? What helps make assessment processes and practices matter to students?
 - Session 2: Which structures and strategies support a culture of learning? How do you use classroom assessment tools to build assessment literacy?
- **Using Achievement Level Descriptors to Ensure Classroom Rigor:** Achievement-level descriptors (ALDs) provide clarity about large learning goals. Participants will use information from ALDs to inform teaching and learning actions that support learner success. This session is offered once in the fall and once in the winter.
- **Triangulating Data for Instructional Insights (formerly titled *Using Multiple Data Sources to Inform Instruction*):** Participants will learn how to transform data into practical information and explore the development of focused questions to help guide efforts when triangulating data to inform decisions. This session is offered once in the fall and once in the spring.
- **NEW! Applying Classroom Assessment Standards:** A two-part professional learning series in which participants explore and practice applying standards issued by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) that guide sound classroom assessment. Both sessions will be offered in the winter and spring; sessions are not offered in the fall.
 - Session 1: What existing frameworks can guide teachers' classroom assessment practices and inform decisions?
 - Session 2: What are the main components of quality assessment practices?