



REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

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Mr. Michael Hammer, Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Families,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, Reading and Science. For the 2023-2024 administration, Maine will be using the Maine Through Year Assessment for grades 3-8 and second-year high school students in Mathematics and Reading. Students in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will participate in the Maine Science assessment. Students in grades 3-8 and third year of high school with the most significant cognitive disabilities, will continue to participate in the Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) to assess Mathematics and Reading and the MSAA Science which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). All assessments are administered online, unless paper based tests for specific accommodations.

The assessment administration windows during the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

Assessment	Testing Window	Intended for:	Average Times for Each Test
Fall 2023 Maine Through Year Assessment: *Mathematics *Reading	October 2, 2023 - October 27, 2023	Grades 3 - 8, and 2nd Year of High School	45 to 60 minutes for each test: Mathematics, Reading
Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment: *Mathematics *Reading	April 22, 2024 - May 31, 2024	Grades 3 - 8, and 2nd Year of High School	
ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 8, 2024 - March 1, 2024	English Learners K-12	Approximately 70 minutes

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency	January 8, 2024 - March 1, 2024	English Learners in Grades 1-12 with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	Approximately 80 minutes (4 sessions, 20 minutes per session)
MSAA ELA/Literacy & Mathematics	March 11, 2024 - April 26, 2024	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 3-8, & 3rd Year of High School	Not timed
MSAA Science	March 11, 2024 - April 26, 2024	Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities; Grades 5, 8 & 3rd Year of High School	Not timed
Science	May 13, 2024 - May 24, 2024	Grades 5 & 8 and 3rd Year of High School	60 minutes per session (3 sessions)

As a parent, you may use the information from the assessments to help support your student at home and engage in a discussion with your student's teacher to identify what, if any, additional supports may be necessary in school. Teachers use this information, in combination with other forms of local data, to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. While no single assessment can give a complete picture of achievement, when combined with other measures, these data provide important information about student progress. When a student does not participate in the state assessment, valuable information is lost.

It is the goal of RSU #19 to have all students participate in state and local testing. You have the right to request to receive any state or district policy about student participation in any of these tests required by the ESEA. If you request this information, the district will provide it to you. If you have decided you do not want your child to participate in the state testing, please contact your school's administrator to request an Opt Out Form. Please note that a new Test Opt Out Form must be submitted each school year.

Both the Maine Department of Education and our district are working to limit the amount of student assessment at the state and district level while ensuring that assessments provide meaningful, actionable information for teachers, students and families. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators and your support, students are prepared for success. We encourage you to reach out to your building principal with any questions you may have about NWEA or your student's progress.

Thank you,

Superintendent of Schools RSU 19

