

Maine Through Year Assessment Coordinator Training: Q&A

March 21 and March 26, 2024

Resources

- [Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment Coordinator Training Slides](#)
- [Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment Coordinator Training Recording](#)
- [Maine DOE's Maine Through Year Assessment webpage](#)
- [NWEA Maine Connection page](#)

Maine Through Year Assessment Overview

What are the scores received from the assessment in the fall and winter vs. in the spring?

In the fall and winter, the Maine Through Year Assessment is fully diagnostic. All of the questions in the fall and winter are MAP Growth questions, the constraint-based engine that chooses the questions is the MAP Growth constraint-based engine, and the assessment blueprints are the same as MAP Growth (i.e., same Instructional Areas, equally distributed).

In the spring, the Maine Through year Assessment contains both a diagnostic portion, similar to fall and winter, and a summative portion. The summative portion is included to meet the federal requirements for state assessments, and the Maine-specific scale score is generated based on students' responses to only questions from the summative portion of the spring assessment. The spring administration also produces RIT scores, which are based on all operational questions on the assessment (i.e., does not include field test items).

Technology Readiness

Do I need to download the State Solutions Secure Browser again?

The only update to the State Solutions Secure Browser since the fall and winter administrations has been for MacBooks. It is strongly recommended that all MacBook users download the updated State Solutions Secure Browser. This update resolves errors MacBook users were seeing in previous administrations.

If you get to the item type sampler, then the technology is ready for the test, correct?

Yes, if the device is able to access the item type sampler *within the secure browser* (not the online version), it will be able to access the Maine Through Year Assessment.

Assessment Management in Acacia

When can I start creating groups and assigning accommodations and designated supports in Acacia?

Acacia opens for pre-administration activities on Monday, April 1.

If groups were created during a previous administration this academic year, will those groups still be available for the spring administration?

Yes. Since groups are not one to one, a student group created in a prior administration within the same school year will not automatically show up in student groups for spring; that group would likely need to have some kind of updates from administration to administration. However, those student groups from a prior administration within the same school year are still visible and accessible in Acacia, so they can be modified and updated using the pencil icon in the action column when you are in the View and Edit tab of Student Groups. In the Test Administration field, you can add additional administrations within the school year, edit the Group Name (as needed), and then add or remove students based on the current enrollment for that administration.

If users prefer to do this in bulk, they can save their group upload file throughout the school year to be able to quickly change the test administration code and any other updates that may be needed (e.g., add students, remove students, update group names) and then upload the updated file and the changes will be reflected.

If you need assistance with group uploads, please reach out to NWEA Partner Support at (855) 430-1777.

The group upload process is time-consuming when students need to be assigned to multiple groups, for example different teachers for Reading and Math. What is the most time-efficient means to manage group uploads via the csv process?

NWEA and Maine DOE continue to work together to update guidance to reflect steps and time-saving strategies for assigning students to multiple groups. More information will be posted on the [NWEA Maine Connection page](#) when it becomes available.

Accessibility

If accessibility supports (i.e., designated supports and accommodations) were assigned to a student during a previous administration this academic year, will those accessibility supports still be assigned to the student for the spring administration?

No. Accessibility supports are assigned to the specific assessment administration and need to be re-entered for each administration.

Not Tested Codes

Who do we contact with parent refusal to test so an NTC can be entered?

The available not-tested codes are INV (invalidation), EMW (emergency medical waiver), and RMV (remove). INV and EMW are used exclusively by the Maine DOE. RMV is used internally by NWEA to reset students' assessment results as needed.

Students who do not participate due to parent refusal are considered non-participants, and no NTC needs to be entered.

Preparing for & Monitoring the Assessment

Will the fall MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreements be honored for the spring?

Yes, proctors only need to view the Assessment Team's security webisodes (found on the Maine DOE's [Assessment Security webpage](#)) and sign the MEA Assessment Security & Data Privacy Agreement (Appendix E of the [Maine Educational Assessments Security Handbook](#)) once per academic year.

When will the initial Maine DOE roster upload occur? What about each of the daily change files?

Maine DOE uploaded our first spring roster file on March 27. SAUs gain access to the platform for spring pre-administration activities on April 1.

The daily change file is automatically generated at 8:00 PM each weekday evening and then manually uploaded each weekday morning (excluding state holidays) into Acacia by a member of the Maine DOE Assessment Team. Due to the need for manual upload and potential need for manual correction of rostering errors, please allow 36 hours between updating Synergy and reaching out to the Maine DOE Assessment Team regarding missing student updates in Acacia. If you need a student updated *immediately*, please contact Krista Averill at Krista.Averill@maine.gov or (207) 215-6528.

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

There are some unique out-of-district and out-of-state student enrollments that will require the Maine DOE to facilitate a collaborative assessment administration process between the attending school and fiscally responsible SAU. Krista Averill, Assessment Coordinator for the Maine Through Year Assessment, will be reaching out to SAUs with these out-of-district and out-of-state placements during the first week of April.

Proctor & Student Experience

Will the rapid guessing feature be included in this administration?

Rapid guessing is a MAP Growth feature that is not a part of the Acacia platform. The addition of this feature is not currently a part of NWEA's development road map for Acacia.

Data & Reporting

What is the schedule for the release of scores from the Spring 2024 administration of the assessment?

Reports in Acacia are available within 24-72 hours of the student completing the assessment.

MAP Growth reports containing Maine Through Year Assessment RIT score data will be available within 24 hours of becoming available in Acacia, *if the SAU has rostered the student in the MAP Growth platform.*

The Spring 2024 Student Score Data File (SSDF) will be available for download in Operational Reports in Acacia on July 15, 2024. Most of the data contained within the SSDF will appear, however, in the new Student Results File, which is regenerated every few hours during the administration window in the Acacia platform.

Spring 2024 Individual Student Report (ISR) pdfs will be available for download in Acacia on July 22, 2024.

Will there be any reporting issues if the school and district are one in the same?

No, each SAU and school has a unique Organization ID Number, and so our one-school districts have two ID numbers: one for the school and one for the SAU. In the case that the school and SAU share the same name, it is helpful for those navigating the assessment platforms to know the Org IDs for both the SAU and the school to save time and increase efficiency when accessing score results.

Which dynamic reports in Acacia can be exported to a pdf or csv file?

- Organization Report: pdf and csv
- Dynamic Student Report: pdf
- RIT Report: *no exports available*
- Demographic Report: pdf
- Comparison Summary Report: pdf and csv

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

Although there is not yet a feature to pause/alert students for Rapid Guessing, the new Student Results File will add some additional insight into student engagement due to the inclusion of the Test Engagement Metric. This metric is already available within the Dynamic Student Report.