



Millinocket School Department

Dr. Joshua McNaughton, Superintendent of Schools & Director of Special Ed

199 State Street; P.O. Box 30; Millinocket, ME 04462

Office (207) 723-6400; Fax (207) 447-6599

jmcnaughton@millinocketschools.org

www.millinocketschools.org

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Dear Families,

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. For the 2021-22 administration, Maine will be using the NWEA for grades 3-8 and third-year high school students in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. 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 ELA/Literacy. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will continue to participate in the MSAA Science which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students who are identified as English learners also participate in an annual assessment of English language proficiency, the ACCESS for ELLs. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are identified as English learners participate in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. All assessments are administered online.

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) are as follows:

Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

NWEA Mathematics & ELA/Literacy

MSAA - Alternate Mathematics & ELA/Literacy

MSAA - Alternate Science

Maine Science

Intended for:

English learners in grades K-12

English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 1-12

Grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school

Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school

Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 8 and third-year high school

Grades 5, 8, and third-year high school

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.

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 us with any questions you may have about the MEA or your student's progress.

Thank you,

Samuel Hiscoe

Granite Street School Principal

Beth Peavey

Stearns Jr/Sr High School Principal