

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
130 Wescott Road
South Portland, Maine 04106-3442

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Megan Welter, Director, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment
Kathleen Cox, Director of Instructional Support
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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 2020-21 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 and the MSAA Science which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). All assessments are administered online.

The assessment administration windows in South Portland during Spring 2021 are as follows:

Testing Window	Assessment	Intended for:
March 10-June 4	NWEA Mathematics & ELA/Literacy	Grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school
March 15 – May 14	MSAA Alternate Mathematics & ELA/Literacy MSAA Alternate Science	Grades 3 - 8, and third-year high school
May 17 – June 11	Maine Science	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 your child's

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "Megan Welter".

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

Thank you,

"ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL"

Megan Welter