



October 28, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your student participated in the 2023-2024 statewide Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) in mathematics and English language arts. This alternate assessment is designed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities and measures student proficiency and progress in academic content aligned to and derived from the Montana Content Standards. The Core Content Connectors (CCCs) establish goals for what all students who qualify for an alternate assessment should know and be able to do in each grade. The test contains many built-in supports that allow students to take it using materials they are most familiar with and to communicate what they know and can do.

You will receive your child's Individual Score Report (ISR) from the Multi-State Alternate Assessment along with this letter and access to a grade-specific Family Guide found on our district website. Students will receive a separate scale score, with different ranges, for math and English language arts. Student performance is reported by achievement levels, that is, Level 1 through 4. Students who score a Level 3 or 4 are considered as performing at or above proficient on these standards. Students who score a Level 1 or 2 are not considered proficient on these standards.

- Level 4** – Student demonstrates advanced progress needed for success in future coursework.
- Level 3** – Student demonstrates progress needed for success in future coursework.
- Level 2** – Student requires further development to meet proficiency.
- Level 1** – Student needs substantial improvement to meet proficiency.

The Performance Level Descriptors further describe the knowledge and skills children who perform at this level generally demonstrate. This annual alternate assessment provides critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the statewide alternate assessments can help provide a complete picture of your child's abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success on these content standards.

Additional resources that you may find valuable include the [Family Resource](#) page on the MSAA Consortia Site and the [TIES Center](#) site.

To see how our school is performing over time and compared to other schools in Montana, visit the state's longitudinal data warehouse ([GEMS](#)) or visit [Montana's Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Report Card Information for Families website](#).

Sincerely,

Erin Ellis, Ed.D.

Hellgate Elementary School District #4

For more information:

Visit:

www.hellgate.k12.mt.us/departments/curriculum/assessment

MSAA Assessment 2023-24

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