



October 28, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Montana students participated in the 2023–2024 statewide science assessment for grades 5 and 8. The Montana Science Assessment (MSA) is Montana’s measure of student proficiency and progress on the state science content standards in grades 5 and 8. These standards establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade. This online computer adaptive assessment includes questions from three science domains: life science, physical science, and earth science.

You will receive your child’s Individual Score Report (ISR) from the Montana Science Assessment along with this letter. Student performance is reported by achievement levels from Level 1 through Level 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 as 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.

This annual 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. When combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the statewide assessments can help provide a complete picture of your child’s abilities over the course of the school year on these content standards.

To see how our school performs over time and compare it to other schools in Montana, visit the state’s longitudinal data warehouse ([GEMS](#)) or [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

MSA Assessment 2023–24

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