



October 28, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Montana students participated in the 2023–2024 statewide alternate science assessment for grades 5, 8, and 11. This statewide assessment is Montana’s measure of student proficiency and progress on the state science content standards in grades 5, 8, and 11. These standards establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade. The Alternate Montana Science Assessment is able to accommodate students’ testing plans as outlined in an IEP or 504. This 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 Alternate Montana Science Assessment along with this letter. 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.

This annual statewide 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 statewide 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 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.

To see how our school performs over time and compared 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

AMSA Assessment 2023–24

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