

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

DR. KATHLEEN SCHOLAND
*Interim Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum*

EVERETT V. OLSEN JR.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
*Assistant Superintendent
for Business*

January 15, 2026

Dear Merrimack School District Parent/Guardian,

Each year, New Hampshire public and chartered public schools are required by state ([RSA 193-C](#)) and federal accountability laws ([Every Student Succeeds Act](#)) to assess students using a standardized assessment. Statewide assessments are an important part of a student’s core educational program. They provide an evaluation of student mastery of content and skills in core academic areas, serve as one tool for measuring the degree to which students are on track to graduate high school and be college- and career-ready, and help inform future instruction in the classroom. Along with student work on classroom assignments, projects, essays, and local formative and summative assessments, statewide assessment results provide teachers and parents with important information about where students are on their path toward academic success.

The Merrimack School District works to coordinate the administration of these required statewide assessments and ensure students have access to them in a safe and supportive environment. When testing is to commence, you will receive a specific assessment schedule from the school(s) where your student(s) are enrolled, as well as important details and instructions regarding the assessments being administered. It is hoped that you can offer your support to our state assessment efforts by encouraging your student to do their best during testing. In addition, it is vital that your student arrive to school on time and maintain good attendance throughout our testing window. **If your student brings their school issued Chromebook home, it is important that the device is brought to school fully charged on testing day.**

The required assessments for public and charter school students are captured in the table below. For more specific details about New Hampshire’s statewide assessments ([one page description](#)), please visit the New Hampshire Department of Education's [Office of Assessment](#) and view the [2025-2026 Assessment Schedule](#) for the state mandated tested windows.

General Assessment	Grades	Content Area
NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)	3rd-8th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)	5th, 8th, & 11th	Science
SAT School Day with Essay	11th	English Language Arts, Mathematics

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Alternate Assessment	Grades	Content Area
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	3rd-8th, & 11th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	5th, 8th, & 11th	Science
English Language Proficiency Assessment	Grades	Content Area
WIDA ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS	K-12	Reading, Writing, Listening, & Speaking

Assessment Results

- **NH SAS results** are generally available shortly after a student completes the test. Parents and guardians can view NH SAS student results through the [NH DOE Family Portal](#). Instructions, including securing the personalized codes for accessing your student’s results through the Family Portal, are captured [in this document](#). Upon request, your student’s school can provide your student’s Individual Score Report (ISR) before the end of the school year. Lexile Reading Scores and Quantile Mathematics Scores will be available on the ISR. You can visit [this resource](#) for more information on how to use these measures to understand your student’s reading and math levels.
- **New Hampshire SAT School Day with Essay results** will be available in May and June. Students can [access their scores](#) with a College Board student account.
- Student score reports for the **Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment** will be available for parents to view through the new to New Hampshire [Kite Parent Portal](#). The Kite Parent Portal address is: <https://parentportal.kiteaai.org/login>. Visit the [Kite Parent Portal Guide](#) for step-by-step directions on navigating the portal. Upon request, your student’s school can provide your student’s Individual Score Report (ISR) before the end of the school year.
- **WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELLs)/Alternate ACCESS results** will be provided by your student’s English Language teacher before the end of the school year. Please contact the school directly with questions on when to expect to receive these results.

Practice Tests

- Parents may access the NH SAS Student Practice Site by going to the NH SAS Portal: <https://nh.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html>.
- College Board offers a range of SAT practice opportunities. Students who use the SAT practice tests are eligible for scholarships: [SAT Practice and Preparation – SAT Suite | College Board](#).

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- Dynamic Learning Maps provides [resources for parents](#) to support student learning and [examples of the testlets](#) students may receive during testing. New Hampshire is a Year-End Model state.
- Preparing students for WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online - Learn about the [ACCESS online test platform](#) and see the type of questions students will see on the test.

Average Testing Times

Grades 3-8	NH SAS	Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment
English Language Arts/Reading	60-75 minutes	90-135 minutes
English Language Arts/Writing	60-75 minutes	10-20 minutes
Mathematics	60-75 minutes	60-120 minutes
Grades 5, 8, 11	NH SAS	DLM - Science
Science	60-75 minutes	90-140 minutes
Grade 11	SAT School Day with Essay	DLM
English Language Arts and Mathematics	3 hours, 30 minutes	See testing times listed above for DLM English Language Arts/Reading, English Language Arts/Writing, and Mathematics

New Hampshire [RSA 193-C6](#) permits parents/guardians to exempt their public school student from participating in the required statewide assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science. For more information on assessment exemptions, please reach out to the building administration at your student's school. Thank you for your support during this important time for our school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Scholand

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Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment