

Jonathan D. Moody
Superintendent of Schools

Mark P. Hatch
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David A. Leavitt
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8-20-24

Re: 2024-2025 Parent Assessment Letter

Dear MSAD 54 Families,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on annual state testing . The Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. Federal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require all states, including Maine, to administer a statewide assessment in mathematics, reading and science. Students must be provided with the equitable opportunity to show what they know and can do in relation to grade level content (state academic standards). The assessment also provides teachers with real time data in math and literacy that they can use to help meet the needs of their students.

The testing protocol for this year should be familiar to the students and the educators. The 2024-25 State summative assessment in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy for grades 3-8 and year two of high school is the Maine ThroughYear Assessment and is delivered online by NWEA. The Maine Science Assessment is administered at grades 5, 8, and in the third year of high school. In the Fall we will administer the Through Year Assessments and in the Fall our students take the Threw year assessment and the Maine State Science Assessment. The testing windows for the assessments can be found on the Department of Maine website [here](#).

These assessments match the content and skills outlined in the standards that guide instruction in the classroom, and provide valuable information about student learning. We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community about the value of student participation in statewide assessments. These assessments help to identify the areas in each subject where a student needs additional support and where he or she has mastered the content and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter information that is useful for parents, teachers, students, and school administrators. Our district is working to limit the amount of testing at the state and district level to ensure that tests provide meaningful information for teachers, students, and parents.

As a district we are required to administer the tests listed above by the state and/or federal government. In addition to state tests, MSAD54 uses important classroom, school and district data to inform much of our work, including instructional practices, professional development, and program evaluation, to name a few. We use individual student data to inform a variety of instructional/educational decisions at the district, classroom and school level. Student report cards K-5 now include testing information from local and state assessments to provide parents/guardians with more information about a student's academic progress.

As a parent, you can use this information to help support your child at home and guide a discussion with your child's teacher to identify what, if any, additional support is necessary in school.

Teachers use the information to inform their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. While no single test can give a complete picture of achievement, when combined with student grades and teacher reports, it can provide important information about student progress. State tests are important not only to our teachers and district staff for individual student data, but also in how it paints a picture of education in MSAD 54.

The State requires us to test 100% of our students if at all possible. When a student does not participate in the state assessment, valuable information is lost. We are committed to student academic growth, and the MEA helps us ensure they are on the path to success. We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can work to meet and exceed these expectations. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher or building principal with any questions you may have about the MEA or your child's progress.

Thank you,

Mark Hatch
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
MSAD 54