

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on upcoming state testing as well as to provide you with your child's detailed results (enclosed) on the Maine Education Assessments (MEA) from the spring of 2018.

The MEA includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. The testing protocol for this year should be familiar to the students and the educators. The 2018-19 State summative assessment in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy for grades 3-8 is the eMPowerME test and is delivered online by Measured Progress. The third year high school assessment of Mathematics and ELA/Literacy will again be the SAT test, delivered by the College Board. The MEA Science test is administered at grades 5 and 8, and in the third year of high school.

In the coming months, we will administer the eMPowerME, SAT, and MEA Science tests. The testing windows for the assessments are as follows:

eMPowerME (Grades 3-8): **March 18 – April 12, 2019**

SAT School Day Administration: **April 9, 2019** (*makeup date April 23, 2019*)

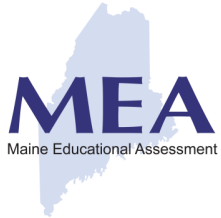
MEA Science (Grades 5, 8): **April 22 – May 3, 2019**

MEA Science (Third year High School): **April 1 – April 12, 2019**

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. Although we believe these tests important, parents may contact their school administrator should they wish to discuss opting out of these exams. In addition to state tests, MSAD54 uses important classroom, school and district data to inform much of our work, including instructional practices, professional development, teacher and principal 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Moody", is written over a light blue background.

Jonathan Moody

Assistant Superintendent, MSAD 54

*Note: All parents have the right to receive information regarding any district policies including assessment policies. Although we strongly encourage that all students participate in testing, a parent does have the right to opt his or her child from testing should he or she chose to do so. Please contact your building administrator directly with any questions.*