

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Julie C. Nichols, Director

LISBON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

August 17, 2023

Dear Lisbon School Department families,

This letter serves as annual notification of our requirement to participate in federal and state summative assessments. As part of ESEA Federal Title funding acceptance terms, we are held accountable for 95% of our student population participating in assessments. More importantly for Lisbon educators is the information we glean from these assessments, which provide us with pertinent and timely data that informs instructional decisions. These decisions include but are not limited to:

- Response to Intervention (RtI) group placement;
- English Language Development levels and instructional supports;
- Gifted and Talented program eligibility;
- High School course placement consideration; and
- Special Education eligibility and progress monitoring evidence.

Each year, the Lisbon School Department receives money in excess of \$400,000 which is essential for student support and programming at all schools in Lisbon. This money supports seven (7) educational staff and offers funding to supplement curriculum, instruction and assessment purchases which match identified district goals. More information about this funding is available on the district's website under the Curriculum Department/ESEA tab and is shared in School Committee meetings each August.

Below is an outline of the testing that we are required to participate in. There are additional assessments offered which are student opt-in assessments based on programming such as PSAT, SAT and AP testing. These tests are not required by the state or district.

Assessment	Student Participation	Frequency
NWEA	Grades K through 11	Three times a year in October, January and May
Test Information: an online, adaptive assessment given for math and reading. This testing takes place during their regularly scheduled math and reading instruction time so as not to interrupt daily schedules. The assessment takes an average of 1 hour per test. Any students requiring accommodations are provided these.		
WIDA	Grades K through 12, students	One time a year in January

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	identified as an English as a Second Language Learner only	
Test Information: an online and in-person English language assessment. This assessment is given by Mrs. Dearing, our district's ELL educator. This assessment takes roughly 3 hours to complete and assesses a student's abilities to speak, listen to, read and write English.		
MEA Science	Students in grades 5, 8, and 3rd year high school students.	One time a year in May
Test Information: an online science assessment. This assessment is given by science teachers during the regularly scheduled science class time, with minimal disruption to HS students who do not currently take a science class. This assessment takes roughly 3.5 hours to complete and assesses a student's proficiency level in the NextGEN Science Standards.		
MSAA (Maine State Alternative Assessment)	A small percentage of students who qualify for this alternative assessment due to a disability.	One time a year throughout March-May
Test Information: an alternative to the reading, math and science assessment. This assessment is given by Special Education teachers to gauge proficiency in reading, math and science.		

It should be noted that the Maine Department of Education does not endorse "opt-out" as a practice. Any parents wishing to opt their child out of testing, needs to contact their building administrator or myself. This allows for any questions that the parent may have about the testing to be clarified and then if the parent still wishes to opt their child out, the parent will be required to provide, in writing, a letter requesting the exemption including the reason for their request. This letter must be signed by the parent and include the child's date of birth. If you have any questions about information in this letter, please reach out and I will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Julie Nichols