


Montana Office of Public Instruction
Published Test Windows for All Required Statewide Assessments
2023–2024 School Year

	ACCESS for ELLs	Multi-State Alternate	Alternate Science	Science	Smarter Balanced	ACT with Writing	MAST
Required Subjects	English Language Proficiency (ELP)	Math and ELA	Science	Science	Math and ELA	Math, ELA, and Science	Math and ELA
Student Group	English Learners	SwSCDs	SwSCDs	General	General	General	General
Grades Tested	Grades K–12	Grades 3–8, 11	Grades 5, 8, 11	Grades 5, 8	Grades 3–8	Grade 11	Grades 3–8
Window Period	12 weeks	7 weeks	7 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks	6 weeks	5 windows 3 weeks each
Anticipated* SY2023-24 Test Windows	December 4 – February 23	March 11 – April 26	March 11 – April 26	March 4 – May 24	March 4 – May 24	Window 1: March 26 – April 5	October 23- November 10
							November 27- December 15
						Window 2: April 9–19	January 29- February 16
							March 11- April 5
						Window 3: April 23–May 3	April 15- May 10
Updated by the Office of Public Instruction on June 15, 2023.		Putting Montana Students First 				Note: Dates and information listed in this schedule are subject to change at any time or without notice.	

Note: SwSCDs is an acronym for student with significant cognitive disabilities and 'SY' is the abbreviation for school year.

Staying Informed with Testing Alerts

The OPI Assessment Unit will continue to share information to the field via its [Monthly Assessment Bulletin Newsletter](#), [Monthly Webinar](#), and other communication means. For more information on state assessment, visit the following resources:

- [OPI Statewide Testing Page](#)
- [OPI Assessment Unit YouTube Channel](#)
- [Statewide Assessment Overview](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions on State Testing, Accountability, and Reporting in the 2022-2023 School Year —

What assessments are required under state and federal law?

1. **ACCESS for ELLs** and **WIDA Screener** is the English Language Proficiency assessment for academic achievement reporting for English Learners (EL) in Grades K–12.
2. **Smarter Balanced** is the general math and English language arts (ELA) assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3–8.
3. **Alternate Science** is the alternate science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 5, 8, and 11 for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
4. **Science** is the general science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 5 and 8.
5. **Multi-State Alternate** is the alternate math and reading/language arts assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3–8 and 11 for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
6. **ACT with Writing** is the general math, reading /language arts, and science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grade 11.

What are the requirements for participation this year Section 1111(b)?

State testing (ESEA-ESSA Section 1111(b)) measures student proficiency and progress on state content standards over time.

- The participation requirement to administer state assessments is required under [federal](#) and [state law](#).
- The OPI does not have a remote proctoring (at-home testing) service for remote learners. School districts must afford the opportunity for remote-only learners to participate in state assessments in-person and can use the sample parent letters on the [OPI's Statewide Testing Parent Corner Page](#).
- The OPI will continue to allow the shortened version of the Smarter Balanced assessment for Math and ELA in Grades 3–8.

What are the requirements for accountability this year Section 1111(c)?

Accountability (Section 1111(c)) is intended to address educational needs and direct resources.

- Montana restarted its federal accountability systems in the 2021-2022 school year.
- All accountability and school identification requirements are in effect. The four indicators are (1) Academic Achievement, (2) Academic Growth, (3) ELP Progress, and (4) Graduation Rate must have greater weight than the 5th or School Quality or Student Success (SQSS) indicator in the aggregate.
- Data from this year's state assessments will be used within the OPI's accountability process for annual meaningful differentiation of schools.

What are the requirements for reporting this year ESEA-ESSA Section 1111(h)?

Reporting (Section 1111(h)) provides transparent information on these achievement indicators and to support education information processes

- Schools are required to annually measure the achievement of not less than 95 percent of all students and students in each subgroup on its annual statewide assessments.