

MAST Through-Year Score Reports



EDUCATOR OVERVIEW

What is MAST?

MAST stands for Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year, Montana's statewide assessment for students in grades 3–8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Instead of a single end-of-year test, students take shorter assessments called “testlets” throughout the school year. Math testlets are scheduled at the school level to align each assessment to content recently taught in the classroom, making MAST more connected to day-to-day learning.

What is the Through-Year Score Report?

At the end of the school year, students receive a Through-Year Score Report, which summarizes their learning across all testlets. The report includes:

- A final scale score (ranging from 250 to 400)
- An achievement level:
 - Novice
 - Partially Proficient
 - Proficient
 - Advanced
- In ELA:
 - Reading subscores for literary and informational texts
 - A writing performance task score based on organization, development, and conventions
- Testlet performance bands (Band 1–3) showing performance relative to students who took a similar testlet*.

How was Proficiency Determined?

The cut scores for achievement levels (Novice through Advanced) were determined through a standard setting process led by Montana educators after the first full year of MAST implementation. Educators reviewed test data and applied their professional judgment to decide what achievement level meets grade-level expectations. These standards will remain stable over time unless the state updates academic content standards or makes major changes to the assessment.

The 2025–2026 school year marks the establishment of a new baseline for measuring student achievement in grades 3–8 mathematics and English language arts. Proficiency rates from prior years should not be compared to these results.

Are These the Same Scores Used for Public Reporting?

All students who took part in MAST during the school year will receive through-year score reports. However, not all of these students will be included in the official statewide results. This is because certain requirements must be met such as being assigned enough testlets, being enrolled for most of the year. Some students may have qualified for a medical or first year EL exemption in ELA. After reports are created, additional checks help finalize who is included in public reporting. School and district reports can give a general idea of overall student achievement, but the data shared publicly and used for accountability may be different. Official school, district, and statewide results will be available at the beginning of November following a week-long embargo period for districts.

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Key Reminders About Interpretation

- The Through-Year Score Report is summative, it reflects cumulative learning, not just results from one test at the end of the year
- Testlet performance bands (Band 1–3) show how students performed compared to other Montana students on similar testlets*
- Scores should not be compared year-to-year, as each year's testlets cover different standards

*During the 2025–26 school year and after, performance levels will replace performance bands. These levels, defined by Montana educators, will provide a detailed description of skills and abilities at varying levels of performance.

How the Report Can Be Used

- Support instructional planning and goal-setting
- Guide conversations with families and students
- Identify strengths and areas for additional support
- Inform school and district improvement efforts

What the Report Should NOT Be Used For

- Grading students
- Evaluating teachers
- Making high-stakes decisions on its own (e.g., retention or placement)
- Comparing students to previous statewide summative assessment performance

Summary Across Roles

<u>Role</u>	<u>Use Reports To...</u>	<u>Avoid Using Reports For...</u>
<u>Superintendents</u>	Identify district trends, guide PD and resource decisions	School or teacher evaluation
<u>Principals</u>	Support instructional leadership, PLCs, and student progress monitoring	Teacher comparison or evaluation
<u>Teachers</u>	Inform instruction, identify needs, support families	Judging student potential or your effectiveness

Additional Resources

- [Through-Year Report Student Interpretive Guide](#)
- [Through-Year Report Classroom Interpretive Guide](#)
- [Through-Year Report School Interpretive Guide](#)
- [Through-Year Report District Interpretive Guide](#)