



Subject: Year 2 MAST Through-Year Pilot: Important Updates and Next Steps  
1.12.24 Weekly MAST Newsletter

---

### Student Survey in Window 3

To develop an enhanced assessment system that caters to the needs of students, teachers, and administrators, while allowing for test administration flexibility, we will be implementing user feedback opportunities. One such opportunity is a student survey. As part of the pilot program, we would like to gather feedback directly from participating students by administering one brief survey consisting of six questions during the third and fifth testing windows. The survey questions will focus on the student's testing experience.

### Montana MAST Through-Year Assessment Summit

We are excited to extend an invitation to the first Montana MAST Through-Year Assessment Summit, scheduled for **February 27, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.**

This virtual event is specifically designed for Montana school personnel involved in grades 3-8 assessments as part of the preparations for MAST statewide implementation in the 2024-2025 school year.

#### Event Highlights:

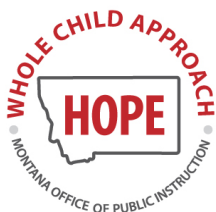
- Engaging discussions with keynote speakers from Education First, the Center for Assessment, and New Meridian.
- Topics ranging from the foundations of through-year assessments to Montana's MAST implementation.
- Participation-based sessions, role-alike discussions, and a panel on family engagement.
- Insights into educator engagement, score report development, accommodations, and instructional utility.

We believe this summit will provide valuable insights and enhance your understanding of through-year assessments. Please mark your calendar, and we look forward to your presence at this informative and collaborative summit. Stay tuned for further details and a formal agenda to follow.

### Improvements and Enhancements for Testing Window 3

Based on feedback from the field and on-site visits, the OPI, in partnership with our testing vendors, are implementing improvements for the third testing window:

- **Monitoring Multiple Testlets Simultaneously:** Enables test administrators to view all testlet activities they are monitoring without toggling between multiple testlets.
- **Student Requirement to Finish All Questions Before Submitting.**
- **More easily accessible *SUBMIT* button in the Student Portal.**



Based on field input and iterations made to the MAST, a comprehensive Test Administration Manual (TAM) review will occur after each testing window to address needed clarifications and any changes in MAST administration. The [updated Test Administration Manual](#) for Window 3 will be available soon.

### Omission of Test Item

During the extended field-testing phase, our testing vendor's psychometric team thoroughly reviews test items to ensure their intended functionality. In the Grade 5 "Division with Fractions" testlet, one item has been excluded from the assessment score report as it did not perform as intended during the pilot testing phase. Please note that this omission will be indicated on each impacted student's score report.

### 2023-2024 School Score Report Guidance

Schools are encouraged to disseminate student testlet score reports accompanied by the OPI provided parent guidance letter in a manner that parallels progress report delivery. Parents/guardians should receive any newly available testlet reports provided at the next regular reporting interval with all available testlet score reports provided by the end of the year. Testlet reports delivery options include:

- Presenting score reports during parent teacher conferences
- Sending score reports home through the mail with report cards/progress reports
- Sending score reports home with district provided assessment results
- Secure file transferring digital reports.

As score reports include data on field test items, it is imperative for schools and families to understand while score reports can provide insight to how participating students performed on items aligned to topics taught in class, each question is still in the field testing phase and will undergo further analysis to ensure validity and reliability. **Therefore, score reports should NOT be disseminated or saved in the following manners:**

- Included in student cumulative files.
- Digitally included in district Student Information Systems (InfiniteCampus/ Power school)
- Used/included in IEP/504 determination, evaluation, or documentation
- Used to determine or influence student grades

Please find a link to the [School Score Report Dissemination Guidance](#) document to help support districts in sharing student score reports while in extended field testing. Student score reports from Testing Window 2 will be available **January 4, 2024**. Please note that while student score reports are in the process of being prepared within the Kite platform, student score reports from previous windows will be temporarily inaccessible.

### Dreambox Learning Opportunity for MAST Participants

If you are a MAST pilot school, you can access OPI provided (FREE) DreamBox math and reading programs for THIS year (students in grades 3-8) and NEXT year for grades K-12! Please don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to provide your students with personalized skill practice and to give your teachers back instructional time. For more information, please contact Natalee Hawks, your dedicated PD specialist, at [nhawks@discoveryed.com](mailto:nhawks@discoveryed.com) or check out the [Montana DreamBox site! \[go.dreambox.com\]](#)

### **Testing Windows and Testlet Information**

ELA Assessment Components:

- Six (6) Standard Testlets
- One (1) Performance Task (*administered exclusively in the 4th testing window*)

Math Assessment Components:

- Twelve (12) Standard Testlets
- One (1) Math Anchor (*referred to as T13 Anchor Testlet*)

Testing Window 1: 10/23 - 11/10 (*both Math and ELA testlets delivered*)

Testing Window 2: 11/27 - 12/15 (*only Math testlets delivered*)

Testing Window 3: 1/29 - 2/16 (*both Math and ELA testlets delivered*)

Testing Window 4: 3/11 - 4/5 (*Math and only ELA Performance Task delivered*)

Testing Window 5: 4/15 - 5/10 (*both Math and ELA testlets delivered*)

**Sincerely,**

**Tressa Graveley**

**OPI Assessment Specialist**

[Tressa.Graveley@mt.gov](mailto:Tressa.Graveley@mt.gov)