Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406-444-3680
www.opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First A+
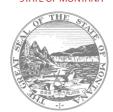
Subject: Year 2 MAST Through-Year Pilot: Important Updates and Next Steps
10.20.23 Weekly MAST Newsletter

Press Release

Superintendent Arntzen announces the transition away from the federally mandated end-of-year summative assessment Smarter Balanced. The MAST program is scheduled to fully replace the current statewide end-of year-assessment beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Read the press release here.

Chromebook Install Correction

If your district uses Chromebooks, we strongly recommend that you have your IT Team/Google Administrator verify that the version installed is the **Testlet** *Kite Student Portal*.

The "Kite Student Portal" version is not used in Montana and may be uninstalled.
The "PLTW Kite Student Portal" may be used if your school/district participates in PLTW testing.

The correct code for the Testlet Kite Student Portal is:
ndbnehagpmolcobndeigdahmdapggcje

*As a reminder, this will need to be installed as a kiosk application.

The manual has been updated on the MAST website. Sorry for any inconvenience. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Kite Service Desk at 855.277.9752 or by emailing kite-support@ku.edu.

Student Enrollment, Rostering, and PNPs

District STCs and Authorized Representatives have been set up with District Test Coordinator (DTC) roles within the Kite platform. If you have not received the activation email, please check your junk/spam folder. DTCs have the ability to login and create Building Test Coordinator (BTC) roles within the Kite platform. DTCs and BTCs are responsible for creating Teacher (TEA) roles and scheduling students to the appropriate teacher for administering their tests. Additionally, it is possible to enter Personal Needs Profile (PNPs) for students who require accommodations based on their IEP or 504 plans. To assist with the translation of Smarter Balanced accommodations into MAST PNPs, a MAST Accommodations & Accessibility Crosswalk Document is available on the OPI MAST webpage under Y2 Teacher Resources. All rostering and PNPs should be completed *as soon as possible*. According to the Kite Educator Portal Manual, a newly-rostered student's assessment may take up to 24 hours to appear. PNPs should be set 24-hours before beginning an assessment for accommodations to appear.

Please be sure to keep your district's Student Information System (SIS) up to date. If you are using Infinite Campus, it automatically syncs with the state databases to update student enrollment information. However, if you are using Powerschool, please note that it requires a

WHOLE CHILD APPROACH
HOPE
MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TEACHER & EDUCATIONAL LEADERS
TEACH
MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
LEARN
MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

COMMUNITY, COLLEGE & CAREER
READY
MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

manual sync with the state to update student enrollment information. If you require any assistance with student enrollment, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Tressa Graveley](), our MAST Assessment Specialist. She will be more than happy to help you with any questions or concerns regarding student enrollment.

MAST Participation Guidelines

The first testing window begins Monday, October 23rd and concludes Friday, Nov. 10th. Please carefully complete all the testing requirements and follow MAST participation guidelines as listed below:

- Each district is expected to assess all eligible students in participating grades within each administration window.
- Full participation includes completion of all assigned ELA and math testlets assigned according to the submitted curriculum alignment survey and testlet schedule sent to district STCs.
  - Students who do not complete assigned testlets in at least 4 out of five testing windows will be required to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment.
  - If individual students are not able to complete assigned math or reading testlets in any window due to a medical reason, please report non-participation through the MontCAS Application.
- At the end of MAST Window 5 (May 10), the OPI MAST Assessment Specialist will compile completion data to identify students and districts that did not reach participation requirements. These districts will be notified no later than Tuesday, May 14, 2024 of their Smarter Balanced testing requirements in the remainder of the Smarter Balanced testing window ending May 24, 2024.

Live Listening/Feedback Session

We have designed user feedback cycles throughout the school year to ensure continuous improvement of the MAST. These sessions will serve as an opportunity for users like you to share feedback, suggestions, and experiences to help us enhance the usability of the MAST. We value your input and encourage you to participate in these live listening/feedback sessions. The first live listening/feedback session is scheduled for ***November 14th from 3:30-4:30 pm.***

[Join Zoom Meeting]()
Dial by Telephone
 +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 863 6095 6592
Password: 998612

MAST Through-Year vs. MAST Form B Pilot Districts

The ***MAST Form B Pilot*** program offers districts the chance to experience an end-of-year assessment and get a preview of the through-year assessment in a more traditional summative format. Districts will test in the final testing window *only*–April 15 - May 10, 2024. As part of this program, districts will have access to the Kite testing platform, allowing them to interact with the testlet content and design. This opportunity allows districts to familiarize themselves with the assessment process before statewide implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. It's important to note that full participation in the MAST Form B Pilot will not require districts to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and there will be no impact on accountability measures. This opportunity aims to provide valuable insights and feedback to improve the assessment system for all stakeholders involved.

MAST Through-Year Pilot districts are fully committed to participating in the innovative through-year design. These districts have already submitted their curriculum, ensuring seamless alignment of the MAST testlets with the local scope and sequence. As part of the pilot program, districts will have the opportunity to administer the MAST assessments during all five test windows scheduled throughout the year. By participating in the MAST Through-Year Pilot, districts will no longer be obligated to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and their accountability measures will remain unaffected. This pilot program revolutionizes the assessment experience for districts and provides valuable insights into student progress throughout the academic year.

Districts participating in both subgroups of the MAST Pilot are still required to administer the Montana Science Assessment (MSA) to students in grades 5 and 8. Any alternate students you may have enrolled this year will need to take the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) (Grades 3-8 and 11) and the Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA) for Grades 5, 8, and 11 as there is not an alternate version of MAST.

The Purpose of the T-13 Anchor Testlet

Like most traditional summative assessments, through-year assessments may use multiple forms (versions). To ensure comparable summative scores across two distinct forms, an innovative equating design is imperative, as students participating in each form may systematically differ without a random sampling design. MasteryGuide is using a through-year equating design, employing anchor items between forms to ensure uniformity and comparability.

These anchor items should suffice for the equating design. However, since this assessment and equating design is quite innovative, it must be validated in the pilot using a traditional end-of-year equating method. The anchor form is the tool for this traditional equating method. It is a testlet administered at the end-of-year that is identical in both forms and includes most of the anchor items that were already administered throughout the year. This dual approach will test the sufficiency of the through-year anchor items for equating purposes. Ensuring the comparability of summative scores across different forms is paramount in maintaining the integrity and fairness of the testing environment, making the implementation of this comprehensive equating strategy crucial for the success of future test design and operation.

Testing Windows and Testlet Information

Each standard testlet is expected to be completed in under 30 minutes (*likely less time but no more than*) with most students being able to complete two testlets within a 45-minute window. The ELA PT (*exclusively administered in the 4th OPI window*) is expected to be completed in less than 45 minutes. The number of Math testlets scheduled throughout the five testing windows will vary for each school district based on your curriculum and pacing.

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*)

Accessing Student Reports

MAST Participating Districts have access to student reports through the Kite Platform. To login and access the student reports, please use the unique MT Kite login url [Kite - Educator Portal (kiteaai.org) [educator-testlet.kiteaai.org]](). Once logged in, navigate to the "Interim" heading and select "View My Results". From there, you can generate student reports by navigating through the dropdown menus. Please note that during MAST Extended Field Testing for SY2023-2024, reports for machine-scored items may take approximately 2 weeks to be available after the assessment window is closed.

Test Administration Manual & Kite Portal Manuals

The [Test Administration Manual](), [Kite Teacher Portal Manual](), and [Kite Student Portal Manual]() for the MAST Pilot are comprehensive guides that will provide you with all the essential information needed to prepare for the upcoming testing window, scheduled to begin on Monday, October 23rd. These manuals include an assessment overview, guidelines for test security, details on student tools and accommodations, and other pertinent information. It is crucial to thoroughly review these manuals to ensure a smooth and successful testing process and familiarize yourself with the contents so as to understand the procedures and requirements for administering the MAST Pilot test effectively. The [MAST Training & Install Link Document]() is a valuable resource that hosts all the necessary training supports, installation guides, standards, and manuals in one convenient and user-friendly document.

Kite Support

The Kite Service Desk is here to assist you with any questions related to the processes mentioned above or any other Kite-related inquiries. You can reach the Kite Service Desk as follows:
- Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MST
- Phone: (855) 277-9752
- Email: Kite-support@ku.edu

Parent Letter

In accordance with our standard practice for statewide assessments, it is mandatory for school districts to inform parents or guardians about scheduled assessments. To assist you in effectively communicating with parents or guardians regarding the MAST Pilot, please find linked a comprehensive [Parent Letter Template](). This template will serve as a helpful guide in notifying parents or guardians about the upcoming assessment and providing them with relevant information.

Sincerely,

Tressa Graveley

OPI Assessment Specialist
Tressa.Graveley@mt.gov