



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

We have successfully completed our first week in the second testing window for the school year. The OPI would like to express our gratitude for the collaborative efforts of all our stakeholders. We highly value the feedback received from participating districts and commend your flexibility as we continue to iterate and pioneer this innovative assessment. We look forward to building on this foundation of teamwork and cooperation as we work towards achieving our shared goals. *Look for updates on testing progress on the last page of this newsletter.*

Testlet Completion

We've completed the first week of testing in our second window scheduled from Nov. 27 - Dec. 15, 2023. If you haven't started or scheduled testing, please begin as soon as possible. Targeted outreach for districts that haven't started testing will occur on Friday, **Dec. 8, 2023**. Districts that haven't completed testing by **Dec. 13, 2023** will receive a targeted outreach reminder. If you need any support, please contact the [OPI Assessment Help Desk](#) or call 1-844-867-2569. We are happy to help!

OPI District Support

We're pleased to introduce Erin de Graw, our new Assessment Specialist, joining our MAST team to support districts. For testlet reactivations and manual student enrollment/exits, please contact the [OPI Assessment Help Desk](#) or call 1-844-867-2569. *A reminder not to include any student Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in emails or voicemails.*

State Enrollment Updates

State enrollment updates to the Kite platform are scheduled to take place the two Fridays prior to each testing window and the subsequent Fridays within each testing window.

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 in an overnight cycle. However, if you are using Powerschool, please note that it requires a manual sync with the state to update student enrollment information in an overnight cycle. If you require any assistance with student enrollment, please don't hesitate to reach out to the [OPI Assessment Help Desk](#) or call 1-844-867-2569 with any questions or concerns regarding student enrollment.

Accessing Student Reports

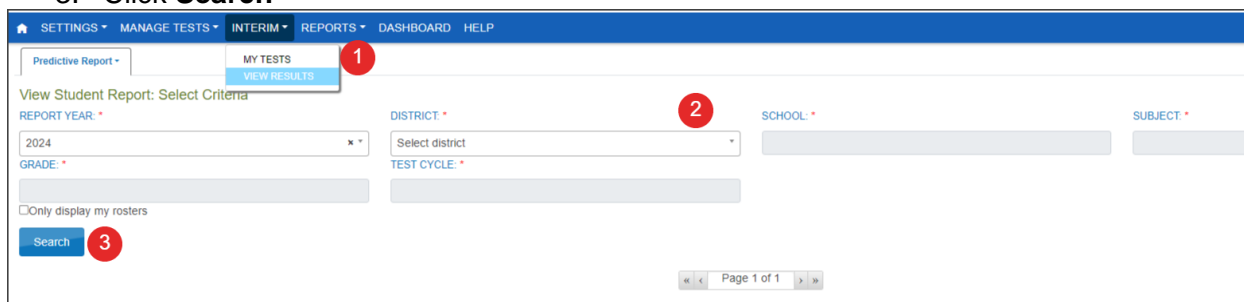
MAST Participating Districts have access to student reports through the Kite Platform. To login and access the student reports, please use the unique MT Kite login url [Kite - Educator Portal \(kiteaaai.org\)](https://kiteaaai.org) [educator-testlet.kiteaaai.org]. Please note that *during MAST Extended Field Testing*



for SY2023-2024, reports for machine-scored items may take approximately 10 business days to be available after the assessment window is closed. Students reports for the first testing window are available. A recording of the [“Understanding the MAST Student Score Report” webinar](#) is available. Student reports can be bundled for classroom use regarding student performance on each question. Responses are listed as “I” (no credit), “C” (full credit), “PC” (partial credit).

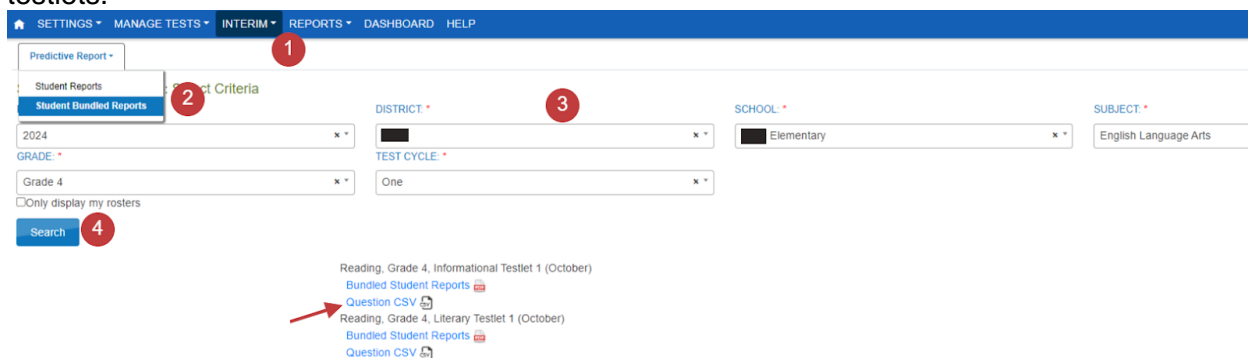
To access individual student reports:

1. INTERIM → View Results
2. Fill out desired **organization** information.
3. Click **Search**



To access student bundled reports for classroom/district use:

1. INTERIM → View Results
2. Select **Predictive Report** dropdown → **Student Bundled Reports**
3. Fill out desired **organization** information.
4. Click **Search** → Select *Question CSV* for succinct table of student performance on each question or *Bundled Student Reports* for PDF of individual student performance on testlets.



While these score reports can provide insight to how a student performs 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. Here are some actions to consider with the pilot score reports:

- **Consider Results as One Data Point:** Treat the pilot assessment results as just one data point in a broader context of student assessment and learning, acknowledging that multiple sources of data should be used for a comprehensive understanding of student proficiency.

- **Gather and Utilize Feedback:** Talk to your child about the assessment and use the results, to think about potential learning gaps and areas needing support.
- **Communicate and Collaborate:** Share insights with the child's teacher for collaborative problem-solving.

While these score reports can provide insight to how your child 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. You should be cautious in your interpretation. Here are some guidelines you should consider when reading the reports:

- **Do Not Treat Results as Definitive:** Pilot assessments are often exploratory and may not fully capture student abilities or learning outcomes. It's important not to treat these results as definitive or conclusive about your child's performance.
- **Do Not Ignore Contextual Factors:** Be wary of overlooking the specific conditions under which the pilot assessment was conducted. Factors like test environment, student stress levels, or technical issues can significantly impact results and should be taken into account.
- **Do Not Neglect Limitations:** It's crucial to understand the limitations and exploratory nature of these assessments. Misinterpretation of these results can lead to unrealistic expectations or misguided educational decisions.
- **Do Not Base High-Stakes Decisions on These Results:** Avoid using pilot assessment results to make high-stakes decisions
- **Do Not Overlook the Need for Feedback and Revision:** Pilot assessments should be a learning experience for both students and parents. Not providing feedback about the assessment process and content from students is a missed opportunity for improvement.

Student Survey

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 a brief survey after the second and fifth testing windows. The survey questions will focus on their testing experience. To provide students' parent/guardian(s) with the option to opt-out of the survey, we have provided a [Survey Opt-Out Letter](#) for districts to share. This process ensures that we can gather valuable insights while respecting the wishes of our students and their families. Names of students that opt-out of the survey will need to be provided to the OPI through the Secure File Transfer Portal **no later than November 17, 2023** in time for the second testing window, and **no later than April 5, 2024** in time for the fifth testing window. *A reminder not to share any student Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in emails or voicemails.*

Student surveys will be administered within the Kite Platform in a manner similar to testlet administration.

Improvements for Window 2 & Beyond

Based on feedback from the field and on-site visits, the OPI, in partnership with our testing vendors, are implementing improvements for the upcoming testing windows.

Window 2 Improvements:

- [MAST Web Portal](#): Includes links to training materials, videos, the test administration manual, and other resources related to the MAST.
- **Daily Access Codes**: Timeout at the end of the day. Students can only access the testlets for which teachers provide daily access codes, and access closes by the end of the school day.
- **District & School Completion Dashboard**: Provides District and school-level roles with the ability to monitor completion rates for their organization.
- **Downloadable Student-Level Completion Report**: Allows tracking of students who need to finish testing within the window.

Spring Improvements:

- **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**.

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. Click here to access the [updated Test Administration Manual](#).

Daily Access Codes & Pause/Resume

For Testing Window 2, Daily Access Codes (DAC) will be implemented. Students can access only the testlets for which teachers provide daily access codes, and access closes at the end of the school day. The following training videos have been updated to demonstrate how to use Daily Access Codes. Additionally, directions for the [MAST Daily Access Codes](#) are available for reference. Kindly share these with your BTCs and teachers to facilitate preparation for this improvement.

[Test Administration \[vimeo.com\]](#)
[Intro to Kite Student Portal \[vimeo.com\]](#)

Students are advised to click "Save" throughout the test. At the end of each testing session, teachers can utilize the Pause/Resume function on their Monitor screen to enhance test security and prevent unauthorized access to testlets outside of designated testing sessions. Using the Pause function will close testlets to students. Subsequently, test administrators can reopen the testing session with the Daily Access Code, select the students needing to finish, and then choose "Resume" to complete testlets that still show an "In-Progress" status.

Can we change our testlet schedule?

The testlet schedule, distributed to your district in early October, cannot be adjusted as the testlets have been loaded into the Kite Platform. If you find that your current testlet schedule doesn't align with your district's pacing, it is advisable to continue with your existing teaching methods and strategies during the MAST Extended Field Testing. There's no need for a drastic change at this stage.

Looking ahead, as we enhance the curriculum collection process for MAST next year, we aim to provide comprehensive professional development and resources to assist districts in effectively scheduling their testlets throughout the school year. In preparation for next year's MAST, it may be beneficial to begin reviewing the [Math Standards Blueprint](#) with teachers and other district personnel. Determine the best times of the year to schedule individual testlets and use this as a reference when planning next year's testlet schedule. You will have the flexibility to schedule your testlets individually or utilize the built-in configurator tool, which aligns with the curriculum program's pacing. The built-in configurator tool will utilize the curriculum program's 'built-in' pacing schedule to arrange the testlets, or districts have the option to schedule their own testlets for closer curriculum alignment.

Live Listening/Feedback

We have designed user feedback cycles throughout the school year to ensure continuous improvement of the MAST. As a way to gather feedback from the *first testing window* please consider providing feedback in this [Window 1 MAST Feedback Survey](#).

Live listening/feedback sessions will be scheduled throughout the year. 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. Teachers, administrators, test coordinators, IT personnel are all welcome to attend. Please forward this meeting link to all school stakeholders you feel appropriate to attend. We value your input and encourage you to participate in these live listening/feedback sessions. The second live listening/feedback session is scheduled for **December 19, 2023 from 3:30-4:30 pm**.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/86277296863?pwd=eEZtc1FxWmtvSzNzSXFubUYvR2NoQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 7729 6863

Password: 349250

Dial by Telephone

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 862 7729 6863

Password: 349250

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,
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