



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

We've wrapped up the second week of MAST Testing Window 2. The OPI extends heartfelt thanks for the joint efforts of all our stakeholders. Your input from participating districts is truly valued, and we applaud your flexibility as we navigate through iterations and spearhead this groundbreaking assessment. Looking ahead, we're excited to fortify this groundwork of teamwork and collaboration, all in pursuit of our common objectives. Look for updates on testing progress, located on the concluding page of this newsletter.

Testlet Completion

We've completed the second week of testing in Testing Window 2 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 today (Friday, **Dec. 8, 2023**). Districts that haven't completed testing by Wednesday, **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

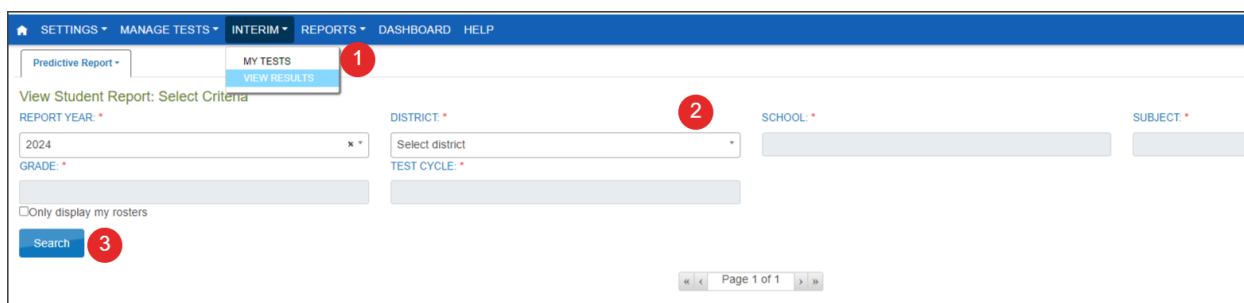
MAST Participating Districts have access to student reports through the Kite Platform. To login and access the student reports, please use the unique MT Kite login url [Kite - Educator Portal \(kiteaaai.org\) \[educator-testlet.kiteaaai.org\]](https://kiteaaai.org/educator-testlet.kiteaaai.org). Please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

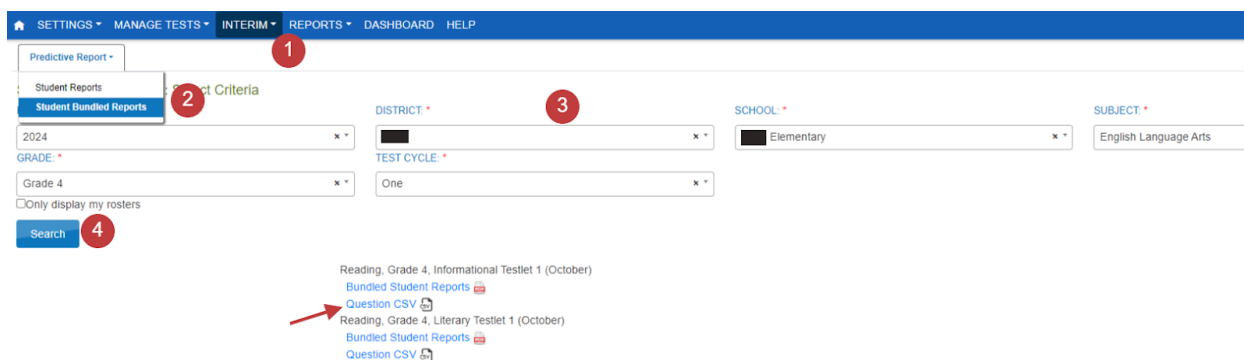
To access individual student reports:

- INTERIM → View Results
- Fill out desired **organization** information.
- Click **Search**



To access student bundled reports for classroom/district use:

- INTERIM → View Results
- Select **Predictive Report** dropdown → **Student Bundled Reports**
- Fill out desired **organization** information.
- 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.

The OPI has provided guidance and support for districts to share out student reports to parents while in extended field testing. Next year when MAST operationalizes as the statewide assessment there will be a Parent Portal for parents to access their child(ren)'s score reports in a timely manner. <insert parent letter and district guidance from Cedar>.

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. The survey questions will focus on student's testing experience and help provide insight to future iterations to MAST that can improve and enhance students' testing experiences. This survey was originally scheduled to be administered after the second and fifth testing windows. However, we are rescheduling the student survey for a later testing window.

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 January 19, 2024** in time for the third 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.*

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**: 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.

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,

Tressa Graveley

OPI Assessment Specialist

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Montana Completed Math Tests by Grade

