



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

Live Listening/Feedback for Testing Window 5

We have designed user feedback cycles throughout the school year to ensure continuous improvement of the MAST. Our fifth live listening/feedback session is scheduled for **May 14th from 4:00 - 4:30 pm**. 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. As a way to gather feedback from the *fifth testing window* please consider providing feedback in this [Window 5 MAST Feedback Survey](#). Teachers, administrators, test coordinators, IT personnel are all welcome to attend the live listening session and provide feedback in the survey. Please forward the links to all school stakeholders you feel appropriate to provide feedback. We value your input and encourage you to provide feedback aimed at improving and enhancing the MAST assessment.

Session 5: MAST Through-Year Live Listening/Feedback from Testing Window 5

Date: May 14, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 4:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID: 880 6071 1228 | Password: 352059

Montana OPI Summer Institute

You're invited to the OPI Summer Institute scheduled for **June 17-20, 2024!** Join us for dedicated sessions spotlighting educational innovation with the Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST) Assessment—a transformative approach to assessment that aligns with our commitment to enhancing learning and teaching experiences across Montana. As the MAST progresses through its second year of pilot (SY23-24), it represents a significant step towards using assessment to support student learning and achievement. This innovative assessment, structured as a through-year model, is designed to assess content standards aligned closely with the timing of content learning in the classroom. Its primary goals include providing instructional utility and generating a summative score for federal accountability purposes. MAST is on track to operationalize as the statewide assessment for Montana's general populations in grades 3-8 for ELA and Math, scheduled to replace Smarter Balanced in 2024-2025. Registration coming soon on the [OPI Summer Institute webpage](#).

Kite Parent Portal

Window 5 student score reports are scheduled to release on **May 24, 2024**. An [updated Educator Portal Manual](#) now includes an *Appendix E* with directions for setting up the parent-student connection in the Educator Portal. A [Parent Portal Manual](#) is also available as a resource for parents when trying to access their child(ren)'s score reports within the Parent Portal. A [Parent Portal video](#) is a great resource to share with parents as to how to log in to view their child(ren)'s score reports.



A reminder to understand and share out with your district's stakeholders the important considerations of interpreting MAST Student Score Reports while in Pilot this year. Please refer to the [School Score Report Dissemination Guidance document](#). In this document, you can find guidance on how to interpret the student score reports along with a Parent Template letter to share this important information to parents/guardians.

For the 2023-2024 school year, it is important to note that 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

MAST Accommodations

A MAST accommodation drop-down menu is available in Infinite Campus for new IEPs. The accommodation drop-down will be available soon to amend existing IEPs. Once this is available, districts have the option to start making changes to student IEPs if desired, or districts can choose to use the [MAST Accommodations Crosswalk Document](#) to translate current SBA accommodations into MAST PNP's at the beginning of next year's MAST administration. A [MAST Accessibility Guide](#) is now available to help provide guidance and support when making testing accommodations decisions for students.

Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

We encourage you to learn more about these opportunities and sign up by visiting the [MAST Engagement Opportunities website](#). Your participation is invaluable in shaping the future of the Montana-made MAST assessment.

New Meridian's Summer 2024 Assessment Review

New Meridian is ***looking for qualified math and English teachers in grades 3 to 8 to share their expertise on our innovative new through-year assessments.*** The program is a way to learn more about assessment, develop new skills, and make extra money by working remotely to help New Meridian review test items. This unique opportunity allows Montana educators to delve deeper into the world of math and English assessments, gaining invaluable experience. Compensation is provided for your valuable contributions. Learn more and apply today at [New Meridian's Summer 2024 Assessment Review \[newmeridiancorp.org\]](#).

During the program, participating educators will:

- Receive payment of \$200 per 8 hours spent in meetings and discussions
- Attend virtual training session(s)
- Attend each day of review from a secure location (no public Wi-Fi), actively participating on camera to facilitate productive item discussions
- Contribute comments to guide discussions, vote on each item, and support the group in generating consensus feedback

To participate in the program, educators must have one or more of the following qualifications:

- Have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the classroom or within an educational setting
- Be currently enrolled in graduate-level education programs

Dreambox Learning Opportunity for MAST Participants

This year MAST Pilot Districts have access to DreamBox Math and Reading programs for students in grades 3-8. Next year all public school districts will have access to DreamBox in grades K-12. **Days of Discovery** Two FREE professional development for Discovery Education Experience and DreamBox Learning Math and Reading are available in the following locations:

- Miles City – August 6th (8:00 am– 4:00pm)
- Helena – August 8th (8:00 am– 4:00pm)

Lunch and snacks provided. OPI Renewal Units Available.

Register here: [Montana DoD Invite.pdf \[discovered-my.sharepoint.com\]](#). If you want to chat with Montana's PD Specialist, Natalee Hawks, click [here \[calendly.com\]](#) to find a time. Please email Nhawks@discovered.com with any questions.

Sincerely,
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