



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

A friendly reminder that the **third** week of testing has concluded. If you haven't already done so, please schedule and complete all assigned testlets during the testing window. Please allow time for student make-up testing. The testing window will close on **May 10, 2024**.

### Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

We would like to inform you about two upcoming paid opportunities for educators to participate in the assessment development process.

- Educator Item Review Cadre **June 25, 2024**
- Educator Range-finding Cadre **August 13-15, 2024**

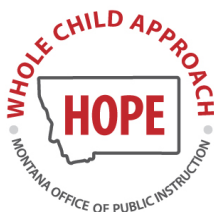
**Educator Item Review Cadre** members will review newly developed assessment items to ensure that they align with Montana standards, are clearly worded, have clear correct answers, and are appropriate for all Montana students by being free of bias and sensitivity concerns. This virtual item review cadre will include both math and ELA content. The item review activity will take place virtually **June 25, 2024**.

**Educator Range-finding Cadre** for ELA performance tasks – educators are invited to help finalize the scoring rubrics and identify exemplary samples of student responses at each score point. These committee-reviewed responses will then be used to create scoring guides with anchor papers, practice sets, and qualification sets to train human scorers. The Range-finding activity will take place in-person in Bozeman, MT, from **August 13-15, 2024**.

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.

### Math Anchor Testlet

During the fifth and final testing window, the math anchor testlet will be administered. Please ensure this testlet is the last administered math testlet. The assessment consists of 20-22 questions in two sections. Students in grades 6-8 may not use a calculator for Section 1. Students in grades 6-8 may use the calculator tool provided in Kite for Section 2 only. The calculator is accessible in the Student Portal Toolbox. Students may not use any other calculator for this assessment unless approved by your school. On the Review/End page of Section 1, students will select CONTINUE to launch Section 2. Be sure students check their work in Section 1 before moving to Section 2. Once the second session is launched, students will be unable to go back to Session 1. A script for the Math Anchor testlet can be found in the [MAST Test Administration Manual](#).

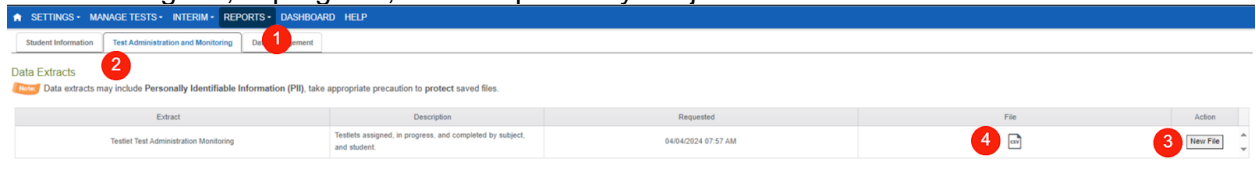




## Test Completion Monitoring

A data extract is available to DTCs and BTCs to help monitor testlet completion.

Navigate to:

1. REPORTS > DATA EXTRACTS
2. Select the Test Administration and Monitoring tab.
3. Click on New File.
4. Once the file has loaded, click on the csv icon to download a document that will list testlets assigned, in progress, and completed by subject and student.



Extract	Description	Requested	File	Action
Testlet Test Administration Monitoring	Testlets assigned, in progress, and completed by subject and student	04/04/2024 07:57 AM		

## 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 PNPs 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.

## 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. Teachers, administrators, test coordinators, IT personnel are all welcome to attend. Please forward the 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.

**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. 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

### **Full MAST Participation**

Please refer to the following participation guidance. During the extended field testing of MAST, it is crucial to closely monitor testlet completion. Per the Federal Testing Waiver granted to Montana for the 2023-2024 MAST administration, districts that fully participate in MAST are exempt from taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment. As we enter the last two MAST testing windows, it is imperative to the success of the pilot that full participation is continued.

#### Through-Year (Form A) Participants:

- Each school participating in the MAST Through-Year Pilot is expected to assess all eligible students at a participation rate of at least 95% in accordance with section 1111(c)(4)(E)(iii) within each administration window.
- Full participation includes completion of all assigned ELA and math testlets assigned according to the submitted school curriculum alignment survey.
- Schools who do not complete assigned testlets with fidelity in at least four out of five windows may be required to take the Statewide Summative Assessment.
  - If individual students are not able to complete assigned testlets in any window due to a medical reason, schools are to report non-participation through the MontCAS Application in accordance with [state assessment policy](#).

If you have students that have transferred out of your district but are still showing in Kite, please reach out to the OPI Assessment Help Desk to get them manually exited 1-844-867-2569 or

[opiassessmenthelpdesk@mt.gov](mailto:opiassessmenthelpdesk@mt.gov). A reminder not to share any student Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in emails or voicemails.

### **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 \[newmeridiancorp.org\]](https://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. If you want to learn more about how to get started with DreamBox attend one of our live webinars and earn 1 PDU per session: register [here \[info.discoveryeducation.com\]](https://info.discoveryeducation.com). If you want to chat with Montana's PD Specialist, Natalee Hawks, click [here \[calendly.com\]](https://calendly.com) to find a time. Please email [Nhawks@discoveryed.com](mailto:Nhawks@discoveryed.com) with any questions.

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

Sincerely,  
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Montana Tests by Completion Status and Grade Level

