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 Form B Summative Pilot: Important Updates and Next Steps
1.26.24 MAST Outreach

Montana MAST Through-Year Assessment Summit

We are excited to extend an invitation to the first Montana MAST Through-Year Assessment Summit, scheduled for *February 27, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM*.

This virtual event is specifically designed for Montana school personnel involved in grades 3-8 assessments as part of the preparations for MAST statewide implementation in the 2024-2025 school year.
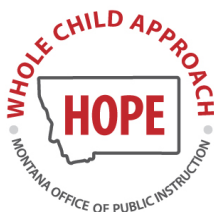
Event Highlights:
- Engaging discussions with keynote speakers from Education First, the Center for Assessment, and New Meridian.
- Topics ranging from the foundations of through-year assessments to Montana's MAST implementation.
- Participation-based sessions, role-alike discussions, and a panel on family engagement.
- Insights into educator engagement, score report development, accommodations, and instructional utility.

We believe this summit will provide valuable insights and enhance your understanding of through-year assessments. Please mark your calendar, and we look forward to your presence at this informative and collaborative summit. Navigate to the MAST KickOff Virtual Event page to find registration information, agendas, presenter bios, and more!

MAST Testing Preparation for April 15 - May 10, 2024 Testing Window

At this time, there are no actionable steps to complete. We will communicate next steps as we near the MAST Form B Summative testing window scheduled April 15 - May 10, 2024.The Kite Platform will be set up closer to the beginning of the testing window. If your district is interested in beginning preparatory steps, feel free to begin these tasks:

1. **Install the Kite Student Portal** application on all student testing devices by using the download and install manuals that can be found on page 1 of the MAST Training and Install Links document. Ensure that the Kite domain is whitelisted (*see page 2 of the linked document*). If you are a returning pilot participant, there are no changes to the Kite Student Portal application for the 2024 school year. Simply ensure that the application is still installed on testing devices. If it's not, you can download and install it using the link above. Also, verify network settings and whitelist the Kite domain if needed.
2. **Preparing Staff with Training Videos & Supports**. Training videos and other support such as the Test Administration Manual, Educator & Student Portal Manuals, and recordings of Live Q&A Sessions can be found on page 1 of the MAST Training and Install Links document. For the Test Security Training, please proceed with your training as outlined for the Smarter Balanced Assessment, adhering to the specifications in your

Test Security Plan. This includes providing training on crucial aspects such as refraining from sharing personally identifiable student information through non-secure means like voicemail/email, maintaining the confidentiality of test items/questions, ensuring all personal electronic devices (except approved medical devices) are powered off and stored out of sight during state assessments, implementing a student verification process to guarantee correct room assignments, seats, and assessments, ensuring active test administration and monitoring, and outlining procedures in the event of a test security breach.

There won't be a Test Administration Certification course for MAST this year during the Pilot phase. Upon initial login to the Kite Portal, all test administrators and users are required to acknowledge their understanding of a test security awareness agreement by clicking a checkbox.

3.   **Try out the Student Practice Test.** The Practice Test helps students gain confidence navigating assessments and question types. Students practice with simple questions, successful manipulation of each question type, and tools. Login from home or school (an app or browser). Navigate to https://student-testlet.kiteaai.org/ and enter the username and password from the table shown.

Username	Password
tech.demo	MAZE8

After logging in, select PRACTICE FIRST and click Take Test.

Accessing Student Reports for Y1 MAST Participating Schools
Y1 MAST Participating Districts have access to last year's student reports through the Kite Platform. Users with the District Testing Coordinator roles can use the same login credentials that were used during the previous year to access these reports. If you encounter any difficulties while trying to access the student reports, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kite Support using the contact information provided below. Be sure to use the unique Montana URL to log into the Kite - Educator Portal (kiteaai.org) to access student reports.

KITE Support Desk: (855) 277-9752
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MST
Kite-support@ku.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
What are the expectations for our district's Testing Plans if we are MAST Participants?
Districts are mandated to submit five essential testing plans to ensure test security. These encompass the Test Administration Plan, Test Accessibility Plan, Test Security Plan, Data Use Plan, and Test Training Plan. For MAST participating districts, please update any references to the Smarter Balanced Assessment, replacing them with appropriate language for MAST in the existing plans. This ensures alignment with your district's participation in the MAST Pilot.

What are the required assessments if our district participates in the MAST Pilot?
Students in grades 5 and 8 will still be required to complete the Montana Science Assessment (MSA). Qualifying students with significant cognitive disabilities, will continue to take the available alternate assessments. The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) serves as the

alternate math and reading/language arts assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3–8. Similarly, the Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA) serves as the alternate science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 5 & 8 specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. By fully participating in the MAST Form B Summative, your district is granted an exemption from the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

How do we enter accommodations into AIM for MAST?
During this year's MAST Pilot Extended Field Testing, there is no MAST accommodation dropdown available within Infinite Campus for entering students' accommodations. The MAST Accommodations & Accessibility Crosswalk Document, which can be accessed on the OPI MAST webpage, will provide guidance on how to translate Smarter Balanced accommodations into MAST PNPs (Personal Needs Profile) within the Kite Portal when the time comes. The MAST Test Administration Manual, Kite Educator Portal Manual, and Kite Student Portal Manual are included to help contextualize the accommodation crosswalk document. Further training and support will be provided as we get closer to the spring testing window.

Feel free to reach out with any questions. I am happy to help and support your district during this pilot phase.

Sincerely,
Tressa Graveley
OPI Assessment Specialist
Tressa.Graveley@mt.gov