



Assessment Profile for the Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST) Assessments

Why:

MAST is the general mathematics and reading/language arts assessment for academic state achievement reporting in Grades 3–8. The MAST assessments are aligned to the Montana Content Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), which is used to provide state, district, school, and individual student achievement information. The scores are used by the state to provide a consistent picture of student performance and proficiency across Montana’s public schools and private schools seeking accreditation. It is an important measure for understanding comparisons between schools over time and for gaining understanding of equity in educational services.

State Requirement:

- “English language arts and mathematics assessments shall be aligned to Montana content standards in English language arts and mathematics and administered in grades 3–8 and 11.” **Source:** [ARM 10.56.102\(3\)\(a\)](#)

Federal Requirement:

- “In the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be administered— (aa) in each of grades 3 through 8; and (bb) at least once in grades 9 through 12.”
Source: [ESEA Section 1111\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)\(v\)\(I\)](#)

What:

Student performance within Montana’s accountability system will use results from the Grades 3-8 ELA and math [i.e. MAST] assessments to calculate academic achievement and growth over time.

Who:

The MAST assessment is required in all public schools and accredited private schools.

Annually, roughly 68,000 Montana students are assessed in ELA and math in Grades 3-8 using the MAST test.

All district Authorized Representatives (ARs) and System Test Coordinators (STCs) will be assigned a district test coordinator role in the [Kite Educator Portal](#), the delivery system of the MAST assessment. The STC is assigned the district test coordinator role in the [MAST Scheduler Tool](#), the portal for scheduling MAST math testlets. The STC is responsible for creating all other user roles within the district.

The OPI performs an initial upload of students into the Kite Portal on July 31st followed by weekly uploads using the data as it is entered into the local student data system (Infinite Campus/PowerSchool). Daily uploads will be conducted the week before each window and for the duration of the assessment windows.



To ensure that student accommodations are available, IEPs must be entered in the local data system. If a student moves out of district, the district should ensure that the student is end-dated at said district, in order to allow the student to enroll in another school system within the state and participate in the statewide required assessment.

MAST Accommodations are available in the IEP editor within Infinite Campus. IEPs referencing Smarter Balanced Assessment accommodations should be updated in the 2024-2025 school year. Smarter Balanced accommodations can be entered in the Kite PNP settings using the [MAST Accommodations and Accessibility Crosswalk](#).

When:

The MAST statewide assessment has four windows across the school year. Three 6-week primary windows, and a final 3-week Anchor window.

Average Testing Times

ELA and mathematics testlets: 15-30 minutes per testlet

5-8 testlets per testing window

Total: 1-2 hours depending on the number of testlets administered

Where:

MAST assessments are fixed-form testlets administered online through the [Kite Portal](#).

Score Reports: Accessing, Downloading & Providing To Families

Individual student score reports are available within the Kite Educator Portal under the INTERIM > View Results tab. District, school, class, and individual student reports are all available in the Reporting System within the Kite portal.

Districts are responsible for providing individual score reports to parents/families after each administration and summative results no later than the fall parent-teacher conferences. Summative results and score reports will be available in the fall of 2025 following standard setting.

Districts can share information with families using the [Kite Parent Portal](#). Directions to create the student-parent connection in the Kite Educator Portal can be found in the [Kite Educator Portal Manual](#). A MAST Score Report template letter will soon be available for schools to use and can be found on the OPI webpage.

For state official reporting purposes, the OPI receives the raw results file when available and typically releases the official results to the public in September-October.

Questions about this assessment should be directed to the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1-844-867-2569, or e-mail at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.