

# August 2024 Assessment Bulletin



This bulletin communication is tailored to System Test Coordinators (STCs) with a lens for providing the current news, testing alerts, and changes to statewide assessments.

Use these hyperlinks to navigate to each section of the bulletin:

- [Assessment Specific Timely Tasks](#)
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## 2024-2025 OPI Test Windows

	Anticipated SY2024-25 Test Windows	Required Subjects	Student Group	Grades Tested	Window Period
Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)	<b>Window 1</b> October 14- November 22	Math and ELA	General	Grades 3–8	3 windows: 6 weeks each  Final Anchor window: 3 weeks
	<b>Window 2</b> January 13- February 21				
	<b>Window 3</b> March 24- May 2				
	<b>Window 4</b> (Anchor only) May 5-May 23				
ACCESS for ELLs	December 2- February 21	English Language Proficiency	English Learners	Grades K–12	12 weeks
Montana Science Assessment (MSA)	March 3- May 23	Science	General	Grades 5, 8	12 weeks
Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)	March 10- April 25	Math and ELA	SwSCDs	Grades 3–8, 11	7 weeks
Montana Alternate Science Assessment (AMSA)	March 10- April 25	Science	SwSCDs	Grades 5, 8, 11	7 weeks
ACT with Writing	<b>Window 1</b> March 25-April 4	Math, ELA, and Science	General	Grade 11	3 windows: 3 weeks each
	<b>Window 2</b> April 8-18				
	<b>Window 3</b> April 22-May 2				
Updated by the Office of Public Instruction on May 9, 2024.		<b>Putting Montana Students First</b> <b>A<sup>+</sup></b>		<b>Note:</b> Dates and information listed in this schedule are subject to change at any time or without notice.	

**Note:** SwSCDs is an acronym for student with significant cognitive disabilities and 'SY' is the abbreviation for school year. The OPI will publish any changes to the test windows on the [Published Test Windows](#). The asterisk (\*) is used to signify these dates are subject to change based on new information or changed policies.

## Timely Tasks for State Assessments

The checklists below help guide the System Test Coordinator (STC) in ensuring tasks related to state assessments are completed in a timely manner.

### MontCAS (Montana Comprehensive Assessment System)

This section pertains to general and test security tasks under the umbrella of the MontCAS program not specific to any one of the state assessments.

- ✓ **STCs should be prepared to have statewide assessment preparations in place much earlier than normal for the 2024-2025 school year. The first statewide assessment window will open on October 14, 2024.**
- ✓ New STCs should contact the OPI Assessment Unit to ensure proper access to assessment portals. Confirmation from the district's Authorized Representative will be required prior to providing access to assessment portals. Contact the OPI Assessment Unit at [OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov) or 844.867.2569 for assistance.
- ✓ STCs review the [MontCAS Test Security Collection Schedule](#) and plan accordingly for the district.
- ✓ STCs ensure the district's five testing plans are in place for the 2024-2025 school year. **Deadline: October 10, 2024.**
- ✓ STCs complete BOTH test security screens in the [MontCAS Application](#). **Deadline: October 10, 2024.**

#### Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">MontCAS Test Security Collection Schedule</a>	This schedule includes required and timely tasks and collections specific to state assessments.
<a href="#">MontCAS Application User Guide</a>	This user guide walks STCs through the tasks within the MontCAS Application.

For links to MontCAS general and test security resources, visit the [MontCAS page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

### Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

The SBA was the general math and reading/language arts assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3 through 8 for the final year of 2023-2024.

**The Smarter Balanced Assessment will no longer be administered to Montana students in Grades 3-8 as of the 2024-2025 school year. The required ELA and math content areas will be assessed with the new Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year Assessment (MAST). See MAST information in this bulletin (next section).**

- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from the Montana Testing Portal Reporting Tile and ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.

#### Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">Reporting System</a>	Individual Student Reports (ISRs) can be downloaded from the Reporting System, located in the Montana Testing Portal.
<a href="#">Reporting System User Guide</a>	This user guide provides instructions and support for users viewing student assessment performance reports in the Reporting System.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">Smarter Balanced Family Resources</a>	This site has resources for families and students, including the OPI template for family notification letters.

# Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST) Assessment

The MAST Assessment is the general math and reading/language arts assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3 through 8.

- ✓ Schedule MAST Math Testlets: Districts and schools will have the flexibility to align their MAST **math** testlets with the district's unique scope and sequence. The order of ELA testlets will remain consistent across all districts, as determined by the ELA testlet design, with complexity increasing throughout the school year. The MAST Scheduler Tool opens **July 22, 2024**. **Deadline: September 20, 2024**.
- ✓ Prepare student testing devices: Install guides will be available in early August and can be found on the [MAST Portal](#).
- ✓ Create user accounts within the Kite Platform: The District Test Coordinator (DTC) role in the Kite Educator Portal has access to create user accounts. District Authorized Representatives (ARs) and System Test Coordinators (STCs) have been given the (DTC) role.
- ✓ Roster students to teachers: After the OPI performs the initial student upload into the Kite Educator Portal (August 5), districts can begin rostering students to teachers. **Deadline: September 30, 2024**.
- ✓ Enter Student PNPs (accommodations): Districts will be able to begin entering student PNPs within the Kite Educator Portal on August 5, 2024. **Deadline: September 30, 2024**.
- ✓ Attend one or more MAST Professional Learning Opportunities: Zoom and registration links can be found on the [MAST Portal](#).

## MAST Timely Task Resources

Schedule MAST Math Testlets	Links to the Scheduler Tool and manuals will be available on the <a href="#">MAST Portal</a> . Live Scheduler Tool training <b>July 22, 2024</b> from 9-10 am ( <a href="#">Zoom link</a>   Meeting ID: 519 423 0992   Password: 406774). Scheduler Tool open office hours will be scheduled every Tuesday (8-9 a.m.) and Thursday (3-4 p.m.) from <b>July 23rd</b> until district schedules are due to be submitted <b>September 20th</b> . ( <a href="#">Zoom link</a>   Meeting ID: 519 423 0992   Password: 406774).
Add users to Kite Platform	Refer to the <a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed webpage</a> for a <a href="#">MAST User Management Focused Support Video</a> (about 8 minutes) and <a href="#">Presentation Slides</a> . The <a href="#">2024-2025 User Management Quick Reference Guide</a> will help when making decisions for which roles to give educators.
Rostering Students	Refer to the <a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed webpage</a> for a <a href="#">MAST Rostering Focused Support Video</a> (about 7 minutes) and <a href="#">Presentation Slides</a> . Rostering should be continually updated to reflect student mobility within the district.
Enter PNPs	Refer to the <a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed webpage</a> for a MAST Entering Student PNPs Focused Support Video (about 12 minutes) and Presentation Slides. Adding/modifying student PNPs should be continually updated to reflect changes to students' IEPs, 504s, and/or educational plans throughout the year. Add PNPs for qualifying students as they transfer into the district.
<a href="#">MAST Portal</a>	The landing page for all MAST resources, support, and professional learning opportunities.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the MAST Assessment tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the MAST assessment.

# Montana Science Assessment (MSA)

The MSA is the general science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 5 and 8.

- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from the Montana Testing Portal Reporting Tile and ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.

## MSA Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">Reporting System</a>	Individual Student Reports (ISRs) can be downloaded from the Reporting System, located in the Montana Testing Portal.
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<a href="#">Reporting System User Guide</a>	This user guide provides instructions and support for users viewing student assessment performance reports in the Reporting System.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the Montana Science Assessment tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the MSA.

For links to MSA general resources, visit the [MSA page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

## ACT with Writing

*The ACT with Writing is the general math, reading/language arts, and science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grade 11.*

- ✓ Review the ACT Score Report Schedule for descriptions and delivery dates of ACT with Writing score reports.
- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from [ACT Success](#) and ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.

### ACT Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">ACT Score Report Schedule</a>	This schedule describes the reports received by students, schools, and districts. It provides a description and timeline for receipt of the various reports.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">ACT Success</a>	Individual Score Reports can be downloaded from this site.
<a href="#">Understanding Your ACT Scores</a>	This site provides resources for families and educators to understand and use ACT with Writing scores.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the ACT with Writing tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the ACT with Writing.

For links to ACT general and test security resources, visit the [ACT page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

## ACCESS for ELLs Assessment (ACCESS)

*The ACCESS is the English Language Proficiency assessment for academic achievement reporting for English Learners (ELs) in Grades K through 12.*

- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from [WIDA AMS](#) and ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.
- ✓ Alternate ACCESS for ELLs score reports will be available in WIDA AMS on September 12, 2024, and printed reports will arrive at districts by the end of September 2024.
- ✓ Exit students who attained a composite score of 4.7 or higher from AIM/Infinite Campus.

### ACCESS for ELLs Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports</a>	This document explains the types of scores reported by the ACCESS for ELLs for students in kindergarten through Grade 12.
<a href="#">Report Retrieval Guide</a>	This guide will walk you through the process to retrieve and download ACCESS for ELLs reports in WIDA AMS.

<a href="#">ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores</a>	This flyer, in multiple languages, can be sent home to families alongside the ISR to help parents understand what scores mean, and how they are used.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the ACCESS for ELLs/WIDA Screener tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the ACCESS for ELLs.

For links to ACCESS general and test security resources, visit the [ACCESS page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

## Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

The MSAA is the alternate math and reading/language arts assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 3 through 8 and 11 for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from [MSAA System](#) between July 15 and September 6, 2024. Once downloaded, ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.

### MSAA Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">MSAA System Portal</a>	ISRs are accessed via this portal. The ISRs must be downloaded between July 15 and September 6, 2024.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Resources</a>	Resources for parents to help them understand MSAA score reports can be found on this site.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the MSAA & AMSA (Alternates) tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the MSAA.

For links to MSAA general and test security resources, visit the [MSAA page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

## Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA)

The AMSA is the alternate science assessment for academic achievement reporting in Grades 5, 8, and 11 for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

- ✓ Download Individual Student Reports (ISRs) from the Montana Testing Portal Reporting Tile and ensure they are provided to families alongside the Parent Score Report letter no later than Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- ✓ Ensure that ISRs are placed in student cumulative files.

### AMSA Timely Task Resources

<a href="#">Reporting System</a>	Individual Student Reports (ISRs) can be downloaded from the Reporting System, located in the Montana Testing Portal.
<a href="#">Reporting System User Guide</a>	This user guide provides instructions and support for users viewing student assessment performance reports in the Reporting System.
<a href="#">Parent Score Report Letter</a>	Schools/Districts are required to share with parents how to understand score reports. This letter template can be edited by schools/districts and delivered to families alongside the ISR to meet this requirement.
<a href="#">MontCAS Stay Informed &amp; Find Support</a>	On the MSAA & AMSA (Alternates) tab, a series of focused support videos will be available to support tasks associated with preparing for and administering the AMSA.

For links to AMSA general and test security resources, visit the [AMSA page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The NAEP assessment is administered ONLY in selected schools and students in mathematics and reading in Grades 4 and 8. Participation is required under the Every Student Succeeds Act for any district receiving Title 1 funding.

[National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated program administered by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. The [National Assessment Governing Board](#) (NAGB) oversees and sets policy for NAEP.

From October 7, 2024 to May 23, 2025, NAEP will administer two operational assessments: long-term trend (LTT) and main NAEP. The LTT program is a paper-based assessment for ages 9, 13, and 17 in mathematics and reading with three separate windows. Main NAEP is a digitally based assessment for grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics and reading from January to March. NAEP Representatives will provide significant support to schools by bringing necessary supplies and administering the assessment. NAEP-selected district authorized representatives and testing coordinators have been notified via email of their selection.

- ✓ LTT Principal: Designate NAEP School Coordinator and provide name and contact information (phone number and email address).
  - **Deadline: Friday, August 9th**
- ✓ NAEP 2025 Technology Coordinator: Complete the [School Technology Survey google form](#).
  - **Deadline: Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**
- ✓ LTT Principal: Communicate scheduled assessment date conflicts.
  - **Deadline: Friday, August 23rd**

## NAEP Timely Task Resources:

<a href="#">Facts for Districts</a>	This document provides a district overview of NAEP.
<a href="#">Selected Schools for Participation in State-Level NAEP</a>	This document provides an overview of the NAEP sampling process.

For links to NAEP general resources, visit the [NAEP page](#) of the OPI State Testing website.

## Assessment Updates

### **\*\*STCs Prepare for Earlier Test Security Documentation for the 2024-2025 School Year\*\***

STCs are required to assure the district's adherence to proper test security protocols prior to the first statewide assessment being administered in their district. With the first statewide testing window opening in October 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year, **STCs will need to plan to complete district Testing Plans and ensure test security via the MontCAS Application prior to October 14, 2024.**

### **\*\*Note the updated home page of the Statewide Testing website\*\***

Based on feedback from the field, the OPI Assessment Unit is providing an STC Checklist on the [homepage of the Statewide Testing website](#). The checklist is updated weekly to include all tasks districts and schools should be completing.

### **\*\*ACCESS for ELLs Update\*\***

The process for retrieving Individual Score Reports has changed. See the ACCESS for ELLs section of this bulletin for a guiding document. WIDA AMS has undergone an update. Watch for changes!

### **\*\*ELA and Mathematics Update\*\***

MAST will operationalize as the state general population math and ELA assessment for Grades 3-8 in School Year 2024-2025. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is no longer administered as part of the MontCAS Suite of assessments in Montana.

## Training Opportunities

Training Opportunities for the 2023-2024 school year are included below. System Test Coordinators can place these on calendars to save the date and bookmark support webpages.



### OPI Assessment Focused Support Videos Series

Beginning this 2024-2025 school year, the OPI Assessment Unit is introducing a series of Focused Support Videos. These short videos are posted on the [Stay Informed & Find Support](#) page of the [Statewide Assessment webpages](#). Most of the videos are under 10 minutes and will provide support for all statewide assessments.

Watch for videos to be added throughout the school year as we progress through the before, during, and after testing phases.

If you are looking for support and don't see it in the assessment program accordions, reach out to the [OPI Assessment Help Desk](#) (or 844.867.2569) for further assistance.



### STC Workshop Series

The OPI Assessment Unit is in the planning stages for the fourth annual STC Workshop Series. The series will include 12 sessions over three days in October 2024: October 3, October 10, and October 24. The workshop will provide each Montana school district System Test Coordinator (STC) with the opportunity to learn the "how-to's" for assessment related responsibilities, including one day of sessions devoted to the new MAST assessment.

Watch the Professional Development tab on the [OPI Assessment Unit's Stay Informed page](#) for registration information coming soon.



### OPI Assessment Unit Office Hours

During the 2024-2025 school year, the OPI Assessment Unit will be available for open office hours. There is no registration required for these virtual assistance opportunities and OPI Assessment Specialists can provide support for statewide assessments, testing portals, test security, and testing plans.

MAST Scheduler Office Hours	Monthly Assessment Office Hours
July through September, 2024	October 2024 through June 2025
<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>
Tuesdays: 8:00-9:00 a.m.	First Tuesday of every month: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Thursdays: 3:00-4:00 p.m.	Third Thursday of every month: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

# Federal and State Requirements

## What are the requirements for accountability this year ESEA-ESSA Section 1111(c)?

- All accountability and school identification requirements are in effect.
- Data from this year's state assessments will be used within the OPI's accountability process for annual meaningful differentiation of schools.
- **Participant** = must have **(1)** a valid score and be **(2)** assigned a proficiency level (see 34 CFR 200.2(a)(b)(1)(i)). All students, including students with disabilities are required by state and federal law to take part in the OPI's state assessments with or without accommodations. All students are expected to take part in state assessments in one of three ways:
  - Participate in the general education assessments without accommodations.
  - Participate in the general education assessments with accommodations.
  - Participate in [Alternate Assessments](#) when the participation criteria are met.
- To see a list of schools who were previously identified for targeted and comprehensive status, visit the [OPI's ESSA Information and Documents Page](#). The federal accountability process for school identification using the 2021-2022 state assessment data is planned to commence this Fall.

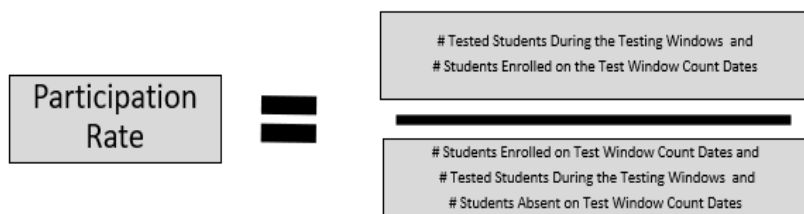
## What are the requirements for reporting this year ESEA-ESSA Section 1111(h)?

- Any instances where it was unsafe for a student to participate in the state assessment for medical reasons must be reported to the OPI using the "Medical Exemption" policy as defined within the [MontCAS Policies and Procedures for Participation in State Assessments](#).

## What does participation and non-participation mean for state assessments?

Participation is necessary to ensure the data are representative and reflective of the population. When participation rates fall below the state and federal requirements, bias can be introduced into the student knowledge, skill, and ability estimates, thus reducing the overall confidence we have in the data and ultimately interfering with the inferences that can be made about student achievement.

- In Montana, there is no "opt out" law, and both state law and accreditation rules require all students in public and accredited non-public schools to participate in state testing.
- The OPI recognizes there are circumstances beyond the control of the school that may result in non-participation. In those rare cases, the district must report the reason for non-participation to the OPI using the [MontCAS Application](#).
- The figure on participation below is used to show how the calculation is made for participation rates for a school which is displayed on the [Montana ESSA Report Card](#) and within the accountability differentiation process.
  - Per the OPI's policies and federal reporting, only students with "medical exemptions" can be removed from the denominator, meaning all other instances of non-participation (or absence) impact the school's participation rate.
  - The state factors the requirement for 95 percent student participation in mathematics and reading/language arts assessments into the statewide accountability system. Students who meet participation requirements and who do not test are assigned a score of "Novice" and designated as a non-participant for accountability purposes (see [ESSA State Plan](#), [MontCAS Policies and Procedures for Participation in State Assessments](#), and [Six Things Stakeholders Should Know about Participation and Testing in Montana](#)).



**Eligible Student Population** = All students enrolled during the testing window whether or not they were present for the full academic year except students who did not participate in the assessments due to significant medical emergencies (34 CFR 200.2(a)(b)(1)(i)).

**Non-Participant** = Did not participate. This is a student who was expected to test but did not for whatever reason and their non-participation status will count negatively against the school's participation rate (e.g., parent refusal).

**Reporting Requirement:** Montana school districts are required to provide parents/guardians with individual student reports in a timely manner. To understand and address the specific academic needs of students, it is required under state and federal law to provide individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports regarding achievement. This allows families, teachers, and other school leaders to address individual student needs regarding student proficiency and progress as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given. Family resources and sample letters can be found on the [Parent Corner page](#)



**Federal Requirement:** provide timely individual student reports to parents, teachers, and principals and include the results on local report cards ([ESSA Section 1111](#)).

**State Requirement:** statewide assessment public results must include a clear statement of the purpose, subject areas assessed, description of proficiency levels, and the percentage of students who participated in the assessments ([ARM 10.56.105\(2\)](#) and [§20-7-104, MCA](#)). School districts must also place individual student reports in the student’s cumulative file per [ARM 10.55.909](#).

## OPI’s Recommended Roles and Responsibilities

<b>Authorized Representative Role:</b>	The individual designated to comply and/or enforce activities in connection with federal legal requirements (see <a href="#">34 CFR §99.3</a> ). Authorized Representatives appoint STCs as the single point of contact for all assessment-related matters and testing alerts within the school system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorized Representatives must confirm STC designation within Infinite Campus each year. Check the <a href="#">OPI AIM Unit webpage</a> for data collection deadlines and guidance.</li> </ul>
<b>System Test Coordinator Role:</b>	This role serves as the data steward for managing local users within the restricted web-based <a href="#">TDS portals</a> used to deliver each test. This role also serves as the local liaison for all standardized testing procedures (i.e., proctoring, safeguarding, securing, and reporting state test information) and ensuring staff are trained and certified to administer state assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STCs must sign the electronic test security agreement and the testing plan assurances in the <a href="#">MontCAS Application</a> by the dates specified in the <a href="#">“MontCAS Test Security Collection Schedule”</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Building Coordinator Role:</b>	Assigned by the AR and/or STC and is typically a licensed non-instructional person such as principals, vice principals, counselors, or other staff members. This person coordinates state assessments in the school building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff with <a href="#">TIDE Testing Portal accounts</a> will be required to sign an electronic TSA. All staff with WIDA accounts, ACT accounts, and MSAA accounts will also be required to sign an electronic TSA or non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to gain access to the online test administration and reporting sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Test Administrator Role:</b>	This person is assigned by the STC and/or BC and is a licensed educator such as a classroom teacher. The OPI further recommends that the Test Administrator is familiar to the students, so students feel more comfortable in the testing environment. TAs follow and administer the tests in accordance with the assessment-specific Test Administration Manuals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff with <a href="#">TIDE Testing Portal accounts</a> will be required to sign an electronic TSA. All staff with WIDA accounts, ACT accounts, and MSAA accounts will also be required to sign an electronic TSA or non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to gain access to the online test administration and reporting sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology Coordinator Role:</b>	This person ensures the secure browser is installed properly to administer the online assessments via the test delivery systems and that all system setup and requirements have been completed before testing. More information about these roles can be found in the <a href="#">MontCAS Test Security Manual</a> .
<b>Staff in Supporting Roles</b>	All staff within the district who may assist with state assessments (e.g., storing ACT materials, sending score reports home, and scribes) will sign the <a href="#">MontCAS Test Security Agreement for Supporting Roles</a> . The TSA should be electronically signed prior to the opening of the state assessment test windows.

## OPI Assessment Unit Contact Information

Teaching and Learning Department ● Phone: 844-867-2569 ● Email: [OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov)

### Assessment Team

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## OPI Assessment Unit Mission Statement

1. **Mentor** schools through the local roles and responsibilities related to administering state assessments in compliance with federal and state law.
2. **Foster** critical partnerships with stakeholders to build strong local assessment and data practices.
3. **Measure** student participation, proficiency, and progress on state content standards over time and help monitor and address educational needs for all learners.
4. **Provide** meaningful, timely, accurate, understandable, and transparent information to the public and families on achievement indicators and to support education information processes at the local and state level.
5. **Help** the public understand performance on achievement indicators and inequities across schools, so all students have equitable opportunities to access high-quality education.
6. **Advance** teaching and learning through the implementation of balanced systems and continuous improvement processes.
7. **Offer** high-quality technical assistance and professional learning to support test administration and implementation of equitable balanced assessment systems.
8. **Pursue** excellence using the highest professional and technical standards for evidence-based practices and data-driven decision-making.

### Accommodation statement for publications

The OPI is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation, require an alternate format, or have questions concerning accessibility, contact the OPI ADA Coordinator, 406-444-3161, [opiada@mt.gov](mailto:opiada@mt.gov), or call 711 for assistance.

### Nondiscrimination statement

The Office of Public Instruction does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, religion, creed, pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, genetic information, military service or veteran's status, culture, social origin or condition, ancestry, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Human Resource Manager  
406-444-2673  
[OPIpersonnel@mt.gov](mailto:OPIpersonnel@mt.gov)

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, call 1-800-421-3481 or visit <http://wdcrobcop01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that serves your area.