2025-2026 STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

JULY 2025

MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Access a digital version with live links through the QR code

STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOWS

	Anticipated SY2025-26 Test Windows	Required Subjects	Student Group	Grades Tested	Window Period
Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)	**Window 1** October 13-December 5 / **Window 2** January 12-March 6 / **Window 3** March 30-May 22	Math and ELA	General	Grades 3–8	3 windows: 8 weeks each
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Math and ELA	**Fall Window** September 8- December 19 / **Spring Window** February 2- May 15	Math and ELA	SwSCDs	Grades 3-8, 11	2 windows: 15 weeks each
WIDA ACCESS	January 5-March 6	English Language Proficiency	English Learners	Grades K–12	9 weeks
Montana Science Assessment (MSA)	March 2-May 22	Science	General	Grades 5, 8	12 weeks
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Science	February 2- May 15	Science	SwSCDs	Grades 5, 8, 11	15 weeks
ACT with Writing	**Window 1** March 24-April 3 / **Window 2** April 7-17 / **Window 3** April 21-May 1	Math, ELA, and Science	General	Grade 11	3 windows: 2 weeks each

Updated by the Office of Public Instruction on June 25, 2025.

Note: Dates and information listed in this schedule are subject to change at any time or without notice.

Visit the MAST Portal for additional MAST information and resources

Join us for the Virtual MAST Summit on Thursday, September 4

MAST TESTING WINDOWS

	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3
	October 13 - December 5	January 12 - March 6	March 30 - May 22
	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks
MATH	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets
ELA	2 BOY Testlets	2 MOY Testlets Performance Task	1 Anchor Test (math or ELA) / 2 EOY Testlets

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)

MAST testing in grades 3-8 for math and ELA general population students begins on October 13, 2025.

All schools must make any changes and confirm math testlet alignment through the Testlet Scheduler before September 15, 2025. Support for additional tasks including user management, rostering, and entering student supports and accommodations, can be found in <u>Before Testing Tasks</u>.

Montana Science Assessment (MSA)

The MSA will continue to be the general population science assessment required in grades 5 and 8, administered in the spring. User and student management, test administration, and reporting is found in the Montana Testing Portal.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

Starting this year, 3-8 and 11th grade students eligible and identified to take alternate assessments will take the DLM math and ELA assessments in an instructionally embedded model in the fall and spring. Students in grade 5, 8, and 11 will take the DLM science assessment in the spring testing window.

Please keep IEPs for all students locked throughout the school year, including students identified to take alternate assessments. Unlocking IEPs affects portal uploads.

WIDA ACCESS

All K-12 students identified as English Learners are required to take the WIDA ACCESS or Alternate WIDA ACCESS from January 5-March 6.

Ensure ELs are marked in your district's student information system to ensure materials are ordered and students are included in the upload to WIDA AMS testing portal prior to testing.

ACT

The ACT with Writing will be the required statewide assessment for math, ELA, and science for the 2025-2026 school year for all grade 11 students (unless alternate) and will be administered online.

NAEP

Montana is participating in NAEP in the areas of Math & reading in grades 4, 8, and 12. Schools selected for each assessment will be contacted by the NAEP State Coordinator.

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

DISTRICT TESTING PLANS for the 2025-2026 School Year

Updated plan checklists are found on the Test Security page of the OPI Statewide Testing website. Testing plans are due by September 1, 2025 and are required to be uploaded through the MontCAS Application.

REQUIRED TEST SECURITY SCREENS within the MontCAS Application

Each district STC must complete both test security screens by September 1, 2025. Find Focused Support Videos for both screens in the Test Security tab on the Stay Informed Page of the Statewide Testing website.

2025-2026 OUTREACH FOR TEST COMPLETION SUPPORT

The OPI Assessment Team will provide general and completion outreach throughout each testing window to ensure every student has the opportunity to complete each required statewide assessment.

Prior to each testing window and during the initial weeks of testing, a general reminder will be emailed to each district STC with reminders of essential tasks for administration.

As each testing window comes to a close, additional notices will be sent to the STC, Superintendent, and principal of each school with low completion rates to support the completion of all testing.

TESTING AND REPORTING NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

School districts are required to notify parents/guardians of the planned assessments prior to administration as well as the time and format for disseminating assessment results including individual student reports.

Templates and guidance for parent/guardian notification are found on the Parent Corner page on the OPI Statewide Testing website.

STAY INFORMED & FIND SUPPORT

The Assessment Unit and MAST Team provides both synchronous and asynchronous training and support throughout the school year. These include in-person sessions at educator conferences, live virtual technical trainings, and the annual STC Workshop.

MAST TRAININGS

MAST Scheduler Training
9:00-10:00 AM
Monday, August 4

Preparing for Testing
3:30-4:30 PM
October 1, 8, & 15

« TEAMS LINK TO ALL TRAININGS

Online Resource Links

OPI Learning Hub- Houses Assessment Support Courses

OPI Assessment YouTube Channel

OPI Assessment Monthly Bulletin

STC Annual Workshop

Sessions on test administration, user roles, score reports, security, testing plans, and accessibility.

SEPTEMBER 04 **MAST SUMMIT**
9:00-2:30

SEPTEMBER 11 **DLM ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY/PARTICIPATION**
9:00-10:00; 11:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00 (DLM TEST ADMINITRATOR TRAINING, ALL ARE WELCOME)

SEPTEMBER 18 **TEST SECURITY AND STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OVERVIEWS**
9:00-10:00; 11:00-12:00; 1:00-2:00, 3:00-4:00

OPI Assessment Help Desk

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https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Assessment-Accountability/MontCAS