Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Julie Nichols, Director

LISBON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

August 4, 2025

Dear Lisbon School Department families,

This letter serves as annual notification of our requirement to participate in federal and state summative assessments. As part of ESEA Federal Title funding acceptance terms, we are held accountable for 95% of our student population participating in assessments. More importantly for Lisbon educators is the information we glean from these assessments, which provide us with pertinent and timely data that informs instructional decisions. These decisions include but are not limited to:

- Response to Intervention (RtI) group placement;
- English Language Development levels and instructional supports;
- Gifted and Talented program eligibility;
- High School course placement consideration; and
- Special Education eligibility and progress monitoring evidence.

Each year, the Lisbon School Department receives money in excess of $500,000 which is essential for student support and programming at all schools in Lisbon. This money supports five (5) educational staff and offers funding to supplement curriculum, instruction and assessment purchases which match identified district goals. More information about this funding is available on the district's website under the Curriculum Department/ESEA tab and is shared in School Committee meetings each August.

Assessment	Student Participation	Frequency
NWEA & Maine Through Year	Grades K through 11	Three times a year in October, January and May
Test Information: an online, adaptive assessment given for math and reading. This testing takes place during their regularly scheduled math and reading instruction time so as not to interrupt daily schedules. The assessment takes an average of 1 hour per test. Any students requiring accommodations are provided these.		
Mindplay Dyslexia	Grades K-3	Kindergarten: 2 times a year in January and May First-Third: 3 times a year

19 Gartley St. - Lisbon, ME 04250 -- TEL. 353-6711 ext. 1904, FAX. 353-3032
jnichols@lisbonschoolsme.org

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Test Information: an online Literacy/Reading screener. This screener is given in the classroom and takes roughly 30 minutes to complete. It screens a series of literacy areas that can be indicators of a child's potential need for a Dyslexia Assessment by a professional.		
WIDA	Grades K through 12, MLL students identified as an English as a Second Language Learner only	One time a year in January or February
Test Information: an online and in-person English language assessment. This assessment is given by Mr. Carter, our district's MLL educator. This assessment takes roughly 3 hours to complete and assesses a student's abilities to speak, listen to, read and write English.		
MEA Science	Students in grades 5, 8, and 3rd year high school students.	One time a year in April or May
Test Information: an online science assessment. This assessment is given by science teachers during the regularly scheduled science class time, with minimal disruption to HS students who do not currently take a science class. This assessment takes roughly 3.5 hours to complete and assesses a student's proficiency level in the NextGEN Science Standards.		
MSAA (Maine State Alternative Assessment)	A small percentage of students qualify for this alternative assessment due to a disability.	One time a year throughout March-May
Test Information: an alternative to the reading, math and science assessment. This assessment is given by Special Education teachers to gauge proficiency in reading, math and science.		
NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress)	A random selection of students from the 4th and 8th grade population.	One time a year between January 26, 2026 – March 20, 2026
Test Information: (NAEP)is a measurement of student achievement over time in the United States. NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what students in every state know and can do in specific areas tested. This assessment is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act legislation. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content		

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specialists, State education staff and teachers from around the nation.

Below is an outline of the testing that we are required to participate in. There are additional assessments offered which are student opt-in assessments based on programming such as PSAT, SAT and AP testing. These tests are not required by the state or district.

It should be noted that the Maine Department of Education does not endorse “opt-out” as a practice.
If you have any questions about information in this letter, please reach out and I will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Julie Nichols

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