

Mill Stream Elementary School
Sticking our necks out for kids!

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Robert Rodrigue, Principal
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Dear MSES Families

Please see the letter attached from the Maine Department of Education explaining the Maine Through Year Assessments that students in grades 3-5 will be taking over the next month or so in reading and math. Students at Mill Stream Elementary School have been working with their classroom teacher to view a student tutorial that introduces students to the assessment process as well as familiarizes students with the various tools available through the testing platform. Additionally, students have been practicing with sample items, which expose students to the different types of questions they will be asked during the assessment.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and thank you for supporting your child during these assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Rodrigue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert P. Rodrigue
Mill Stream Elementary School Principal



Maine's New Through Year Assessment

In the 2019-2020 school year, as our community worked to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) recognized the need to provide families, students, teachers, and education leaders with timely and useful information to support student learning. To meet this goal, the Department formed a partnership with [NWEA, the creator of MAP Growth assessments](#).

With many teachers across Maine already using NWEA's MAP Growth assessments to measure student growth, the Maine DOE has worked with NWEA to develop a new, innovative statewide assessment, the Maine Through Year Assessment in Reading and Mathematics. The Maine Through Year Assessment continues to provide scores as a measure of student growth throughout the year and, at the end of the year, provides performance scores based on the state standards.

Key Features of the Maine Through Year Assessment

- The assessment is **computer adaptive**. After a correct answer, a student may see a more difficult question. After an incorrect answer, a student may see an easier question. As a result, the assessment adapts to the learner and is unique to every student.
- The assessment is designed to be **untimed**. Students should be provided as much time as they need to answer all assessment questions. For the average student, the assessment will take about 60 minutes for each subject (Reading and Math).
- The assessment provides the opportunity for teachers to access and use **immediate, actionable data** to plan instruction. Starting in fall 2023, teachers will receive assessment data within 24 to 48 hours.
- The fall, winter, and spring assessments can be used as one way to **measure student growth** over time. The spring assessment can be used as one way to **measure student performance according to grade-level state standards**. To create a more complete understanding of what your student knows and can do, results from the Maine Through Year Assessment should be used alongside additional sources, such as school assessments and classroom learning.
- A variety of student supports and **accessibility features** are available to students to ensure that the assessment experience is as consistent as possible with the student's daily instruction. These accessibility features include, but are not limited to, supports and accommodations for students with support plans, Individual Language Acquisition Plans, 504 Plans, and IEPs.

The administration window for state assessments, such as the Maine Through Year Assessment, may bring temporary changes to a student's schedule or routine. Families are encouraged to reach out to their school with questions and concerns, ensuring that there is understanding and collaboration around creating a positive assessment experience for **every student**.

For more information about the new Maine Through Year Assessment, please contact your student's teacher or school administrator.