



Regional School Unit No. 18

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Carl Gartley
Superintendent

Keith Morin
Asst. Superintendent

September 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may know, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to administer annual assessment in reading and Mathematics to students in grades 3-8 and 10 and in Science in grades 5, 8, and 11. As a compliance measure, Maine has given the Maine Through Year Assessment (MTYA) assessment in reading and Mathematics and the New Meridian Science Assessment for Science to meet this requirement.

Standardized tests play a role in education. They provide a measure of the degree to which we are preparing our students for future vocations, including post-secondary educational opportunities. They also enable us to identify areas of strength and areas for growth within our schools and among groups of students so that we can make adjustments in curriculum, instruction and supports that will benefit our students. Regional School Unit No. 18 utilizes all assessment data to help inform our practices at the district, school, classroom and individual levels for our students. Please know that we treat all test data with the utmost respect. The only people who have access to individual student scores are a student's teacher and administrator; the state reports school performance data but not student performance data.

The Maine Department of Education opted to administer the Maine Through Year Assessment for Mathematics and reading. Similar to the formative assessment that RSU18 has used for many years, NWEA, the MTYA includes computer adaptive tests. Adaptive assessments take less time to administer than fixed tests and result in a more accurate score. When a student answers a question correctly, the next question rises in difficulty, and when a student answers a question incorrectly, the next question falls in difficulty. This customization provides a fuller picture of a student's abilities and creates a more positive testing environment.

The testing windows for students in RSU 18 typically run in two administrations, fall and spring. We encourage students to try their hardest and do their best, while recognizing that any assessment is an in the moment snapshot and not the final word on a child's understanding or skill.

Feel free to contact your student's principal if you have any questions about the upcoming MTYA for Mathematics and reading or the New Meridian Science Assessment.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Morin
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Chief Academic Officer
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