

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT 52

Greene ♦ Leeds ♦ Turner

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Turner, Maine 04282

KIMBERLY BRANDT
SUPERINTENDENT

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March 6, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Every Student Succeeds Act was signed into law on December 10, 2015. This law replaced No Child Left Behind. As you may know, Federal and State laws require schools to administer annual tests in reading and mathematics to students in grades 3 through 8 and in science in grades 5, 8 and 11. Both state and federal laws require that all students participate in the assessments in designated content areas at designated grades. Schools, districts, and states are accountable for achieving a minimum participation rate of 95% on these tests.

Standardized tests play an important role in education. They provide an objective measure of the degree to which we are preparing our students for their future. The Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts/Literacy, Science and English Language Proficiency. 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. 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 teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians. The state reports school performance data but not student performance data. More specifically, the MEA does the following:

- Provides objective information about students' strengths and needs.
- Helps teachers make adjustments in curriculum, instruction, and student supports.
- Generates student scores that are accessible by teachers, administrators, and parents.

The 2017 State summative assessment in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy for grades 3-8 will be delivered online using the iTester platform for eMPower™ME provided by the subcontractor eMetric, LLC. For the 3rd year high school level, the SAT will be delivered in 2017 with paper/pencil.

The testing window for students in Maine will span from March 20th through May 19th. Principals and teachers will provide specific information as the testing week approaches for your student(s). 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 student's understanding or skill. Certainly a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast will go a long way toward improving student performance and we appreciate your support in this regard.

Feel free to contact me or your student's principal if you have any questions about the upcoming MEA tests.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ambrose
Assistant Superintendent

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