

September 28, 2021

## **Biddeford School Department Student Participation in Local and State Assessments Notification**

In the coming weeks, the Biddeford School Department will conduct required student testing. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires school districts to notify parents that they have the right to request policies, procedures, or information regarding student participation in local and state assessments. You can access documents on the [Curriculum Website](#) as well as [Policy ILA](#). Feel free to contact your child's building principal or Director of Instruction and Innovation, Mandy Cyr, with questions or to request additional information.

State laws require school districts to participate in assessments to measure student achievement of the Maine Learning Results in grades 3-8 and 11 in the areas of math, language arts, and literacy using [NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress](#). Additionally, an annual science exam, New Meridian, is required in grades 5, 8, and 11. Though not required by state law, Biddeford Schools will also administer the NWEA to students in grade 1, 2, 9, and 10.

While no single test can give a complete picture of a student's strengths and areas for growth, these assessments provide one measure for us to understand student progress. Collecting this information provides valuable information to teachers and staff members to improve instructional programs for the district, schools, and individual students. More information about state assessments can be found on the [Maine Department of Education website](#). High participation rates are required by the state (over 95%) and allow for accurate records and streamlined access to federal funds.

In Biddeford Schools, student progress is monitored continuously through the year using the following methods: teacher's daily observations, units of study or criterion-referenced tests, work samples such as student writing or presentations, and standardized tests like NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress. Report cards are shared multiple times each year, and parents are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences to stay informed regarding student progress and the next steps needed for growth. For students in grades 1 through 11, NWEA Student Progress Reports will be provided to families.

If you have specific questions about your child's testing, please contact your child's building principal. In closing, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding student participation in local and state assessments. I can be reached at 207.391.6895 or [mcyr@biddefordschools.me](mailto:mcyr@biddefordschools.me).

Sincerely,

Mandy Cyr  
Director of Instruction & Innovation  
Biddeford School Department