

M.S.A.D. #12 POLICY
STUDENT ASSESSMENT/LOCAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Maine law requires that every school board adopt and fully implement by the end of the 2003-2004 school year a local assessment system as the measure of student progress toward achievement of the content standards of the system of Learning Results.

A "local assessment system" is defined as a coordinated collection of assessments administered to students that, as a whole, provides information on individual students, the school, and the school administrative unit with respect to achievement of the content standards of the system of Learning Results.

Through this policy, the Board adopts and directs the Superintendent to implement, the M.S.A.D. #12 Local Assessment System. The Superintendent shall be responsible for reviewing the Local Assessment System for compliance with applicable statutes and rules and for certifying to the Commissioner that it is in compliance with Maine Department of Education standards.

A. Purpose of the Local Assessment System

The purpose of the Local Assessment System is to provide information that will be used to guide and enhance classroom instruction, monitor student progress, and certify student achievement with respect to the school system curriculum and Maine's Learning Results. In addition, the Local Assessment System is designed to provide valid and reliable information on student achievement in order to evaluate educational programs and practices and to make informed decisions related to curriculum and instruction, professional development, and the allocation of resources to better meet students' needs.

B. Principles Applicable to the Local Assessment System

The following general principles apply to the Local Assessment System.

1. Assessment will be aligned with the curriculum and with the performance indicators of the content standards of the Learning Results.
2. The Local Assessment System will use multiple measures of student learning for each grade span (K-4, 5-8, and 9-12). The assessment measures should be developmentally appropriate for the age span.
3. The System is intended to provide for a fair and equitable opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.
4. The System will include at a minimum classroom, school, school administrative unit, and state levels of assessment. Regional and commercially produced tests may be used, but commercially produced tests may not carry a majority of the weight in determining student performance.
5. Neither the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) nor a commercially produced test may be the only measure of student achievement.

6. Effort shall be made to see that testing contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it.
7. Accommodations may be made in an assessment based on the needs of a student as established in the student's Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 plan.

C. Replacement Assessments

To ensure that each student has an ample opportunity to demonstrate achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, the Local Assessment System will include provisions for "replacement" of common assessments. Replacement is the means by which a student with low performance is provided the opportunity to demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency in a content area or content cluster at a grade span through another, additional assessment. A replacement assessment will address the content area(s) covered by the original assessment, but shall not be identical to the original assessment. Replacement assessments will be used only if the student is in danger of not being certified in specific content areas.

Because of the depth of knowledge concerning the content standards of Learning Results, curriculum design and implementation, and principles of assessment required to construct a valid, reliable, and practical assessment system and the technical detail involved, the number of replacement assessments, and the circumstances in which a student may replace an assessment (e.g., to replace a common assessment with a score of 1 (does not meet standards) or 2 (partially meets standards)) are more appropriately described in the school unit's Local Assessment System than in Board policy. The number and timing of replacement assessments and the circumstances in which replacement assessments are allowed may be influenced by the Board's educational philosophy, the school unit's resources, policy, and school unit practices concerning promotion and retention, opportunities for remediation, additional instruction (including before- and after-school programs, tutoring, summer school, and other options), and other factors.

D. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent will be responsible for the design of the Local Assessment System. The Board expects that there will be input from teachers and administrators in the development and refinement of the System.

The Board recognizes that teachers and school administrators will be primarily responsible for administering assessments and for collecting, organizing, and interpreting information. School personnel should be appropriately trained to develop, use, and adapt assessment data.

The Superintendent will be responsible for ensuring that provisions are made for review and analysis of information obtained through the Local Assessment System and for appropriate instructional intervention when individual students or groups of students fail to achieve performance standards.

The Superintendent will be responsible for implementing a record-keeping and reporting system that will be used to provide understandable information to the Board and to students, parents, teachers/professional staff, administrators, and the community. Data will be presented in a way that conveys school and school unit performance on the

content areas of the system of Learning Results and allows for comparison to statewide performance.

The Board will annually review the results of the Local Assessment System.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 6201-6205
Ch. 127 §§ 2, 4 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: ADF – School System Commitment to Learning Results
IK – Student Achievement
IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students
IKF – Graduation Requirements
Maine Department of Education LAS (Local Assessment System) Guide, March 2004

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