

# WHAT is the PAAP?

The Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio, or PAAP, is one part of Maine's Comprehensive Assessment System, which is required by state and federal law to measure state achievement standards in Science. It is a collection of tasks chosen by your child's teacher and completed by your child in one or more subject(s) during the school year. The scores from these tasks are used as a measure of your child's performance toward meeting one set of the state achievement standards, called the Alternate Grade Level Expectations. These are the standards developed for students who require an alternate assessment and are reduced in depth and breadth from the state achievement standards used in general education.

## The PURPOSE of the PAAP

The purpose of the PAAP is to provide information about the academic achievement and progress of students who, because of their unique learning needs, cannot access other assessments. The content of this assessment has been reduced in its depth and breadth but remains focused on Alternate Grade Level Expectations (AGLEs), which are an extensions of the Maine Learning Results or MEA Science Standards. With the PAAP, a student's progress can be measured using approaches different than the typical, on-demand pencil and paper test. The results from this assessment not only meet federal reporting requirements, it also provides educators, parents, and the public information to inform teaching and learning.

## For more INFORMATION about the PAAP:

Maine Department of Education Website:  
[www.maine.gov/doe/](http://www.maine.gov/doe/)

PAAP Website:  
<http://www.maine.gov/doe/paap/>

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Maine's  
Alternate Assessment

# PAAP

## Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio

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Parent Brochure



Maine  
Department of  
Education

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## How does **PARTICIPATION** help my child?

This alternate assessment allows students with significant cognitive disabilities to “show what they know” and to receive instruction at a level that is challenging and attainable.

### **The PAAP helps to determine how much a student is learning**

A PAAP shows some of what a student has learned during the school year. Scores provide accurate and detailed feedback that can be used to identify challenging goals and instruction for the following school year.

### **The PAAP insures that all children will be taught**

The results of students who take the PAAP are part of a school’s determination of making annual progress in teaching students. This means that these students are more likely to be considered when resource decisions are made.

### **Learning improves and expectations are raised**

Evidence shows that students learn more than expected when they are engaged in instruction based on the state’s learning standards.

## **SKILLS** included in the PAAP

The PAAP test specifications for science provide very specific information about the skills that are assessed in the PAAP. These specifications, as well as sample PAAP Tasks can be found on the MDOE website:

[www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html)

## **WHO** must take the PAAP?

All students in grades 3 thru 8, and in the 3rd year of high school, who attend publicly funded schools/programs, including students with disabilities and English language learners, are required to participate in an assessment. The standard version of this test is taken by most students, which include those students who utilize accommodations to be able to participate.

A relatively small number of students with **significant cognitive disabilities**, who cannot take the standard test even with accommodations, take the PAAP.



The IEP Team is responsible for determining how a student participates in statewide testing.

The guidelines for Participation in Maine’s Alternate Assessment provide guidance to the IEP Team to help determine who should take the PAAP. The complete document may be found online at:

[www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html)

## **How will I get my child’s RESULTS?**

Your child’s school will receive an individual student report in early September of each school year. Schools are required to share this information within 30 days of receiving the results. This report shows how your child did in each content area s/he was assessed with the PAAP. To assist in the understanding of results, speak with your child’s teacher or refer to the Report Interpretation Guide, which is located online at:

[www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/doe/paap/resources/index.html)

The school may use the results to help evaluate the effectiveness of instruction, and the IEP team may choose to use this information as one measure of educational progress.