

Maine's Alternate Assessment

A Summary of Work Done in 2005-2006

A plan and timeline for Maine's alternate assessment (Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio) was part of the State's original submission of evidence for Peer Review and was updated and resubmitted on June 16, 2006.

Maine spent the 2005-2006 year preparing for full implementation of alternate assessment (PAAP) in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Because the PAAP is so closely aligned with Maine's general assessments, it was not possible to prepare the necessary materials in time to include additional grades for the 2005-2006 year. For example, until the GLEs were finalized, we could not write alternate assessment rubrics aligned with them. We, therefore, used 2005-2006 as a transition year. As part of the transition we:

- 1) provided the field a blueprint by grade level for alternate assessment in future years,
- 2) wrote PAAP Rubrics aligned with the Grade Level Expectations that serve as the basis for the MEA in grades 3-8. The Rubrics were posted on our Website in May and will be distributed this fall,
- 3) collaborated with our contractor to develop PAAP Tasks in Reading and Mathematics for use in 2006-2007,
- 4) collaborated with our contractor to implement a Task Tryout and gather feedback to serve as the basis for revisions to the draft Tasks, and
- 5) registered all students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 who would have taken the alternate assessment had we required it.

In addition, this summer we are completing the 2006-2007 PAAP Manual with revisions reflecting full implementation and alignment to the GLEs. The content areas to be measured at each grade level will be the same as those required for the standard State assessments. Science tasks used in the past are being reformatted to reflect changes for 2006-2007. We have scheduled training sessions in three regions of the state, sent out registration forms, and have actually registered close to 200 participants already.

Several Maine Department of Education staff members participated in telephone conferences related to alternate assessment during 2005-2006. Staff from the United States Department of Education were among the presenters in each of those conferences. Based on the information shared, we believe that the points outlined above are evidence that Maine meets the requirements for the approval of our alternate assessment (PAAP) for both 2005 and 2006.