

March 2008 MEA Results



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
June 2008

Susan A. Gendron
COMMISSIONER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) is the State's measure of student progress in achieving the State standards known as *Learning Results*, first adopted by the Maine Legislature in 1997. These *Learning Results* established goals for what all students should know and be able to do at certain times in their school careers and are the basis for Grade Level/Span Expectations, which describe the assessment standards for each grade. The MEA is administered to students in all grades 3 through 8 to meet state assessment requirements and the requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*.

This MEA report includes information on how your student scored on the March 2008 test, along with data on your child's school, school administrative unit, and state results. The results of this standards-based test are reported in four achievement levels that describe the quality of the student work in relation to the standards for reading and mathematics at all grades, science and technology at grades 4 and 8, and writing at grade 5. While many students do not yet meet the *Learning Results* standards, keep in mind that they are challenging and rigorous standards. Our long term goal is for all students to achieve these high standards so that Maine youth will be among the best educated in the world.

The MEA is only one measure of student performance and should be viewed in the context of the student's local program and other measures. The staff at your school will be able to provide further information about your student's performance on the MEA. I encourage you to contact your school to begin a conversation that will support your child's success in achieving Maine's *Learning Results*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan A. Gendron'.

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

More Information about the Maine Educational Assessment

More information about the MEA, MEA results, content area specific achievement level definitions, released questions, and scoring information can be found online at: www.maine.gov/education/mea. Half of all the questions used on the MEA each year are made available for use by teachers and parents to prepare students for future tests and will not appear on the test in the future.

All items on the MEA were designed to measure the Grade Level/ Span Expectations based on Maine's 1997 *Learning Results*, and were reviewed by Maine teachers. Maine's 1997 *Learning Results* can be found online at: www.maine.gov/education/lres/lres.htm. Grade Level/Span Expectations can be found at: www.maine.gov/education/lsalt/gles.htm.

Materials can also be requested by calling 624-6770.

Achievement Levels

Student results are reported across four achievement levels on this assessment. The general definitions below describe the quality of student work for each achievement level. Specific achievement level definitions for reading, mathematics, science and technology, and writing can be found online at: www.maine.gov/education/mea.

Exceeds the Standards: The student's work demonstrates in-depth understanding of essential concepts in a content area, including the ability to make multiple connections among central ideas. The student's responses demonstrate the ability to synthesize information, analyze and solve difficult problems, and explain complex concepts.

Meets the Standards: The student's work demonstrates an understanding of essential concepts in a content area, including the ability to make connections among central ideas. The student's responses demonstrate the ability to analyze and solve problems, and explain concepts.

Partially Meets the Standards: The student's work demonstrates incomplete understanding of essential concepts in a content area and inconsistent connections among central ideas. The student's responses demonstrate some ability to analyze and solve problems, and explain concepts.

Does Not Meet the Standards: The student's work demonstrates limited understanding of essential concepts in a content area and infrequent or inaccurate connections among central ideas. The student's responses demonstrate minimal ability to solve problems and explain concepts.

Content Area Subcategories

The MEA assesses a student's skills based on the content standards included in the Grade Level/Span Expectations, which are grouped into the subcategories shown below. The tables at the bottom of the next page display the number of points your child earned in these subcategories.

Reading: Questions are related to two types of reading passages: **literary** and **informational**, including both long and short texts selected from developmentally appropriate works.

Mathematics: Questions measure each content standard in the subcategories below.

Numbers and Operations: A. Numbers and Number Sense,
B. Computation, I. Discrete Mathematics (grades 3 and 4 only)

Shape and Size: E. Geometry, F. Measurement

Mathematical Decision Making: C. Data Analysis and Statistics,
D. Probability

Patterns: G. Patterns, Relations, and Functions, H. Algebra Concepts,
K. Mathematical Communication

Science and Technology: Questions measure each content standard at grades 4 and 8 in the subcategories below.

Life Sciences: A. Classifying Life Forms, B. Ecology, C. Cells

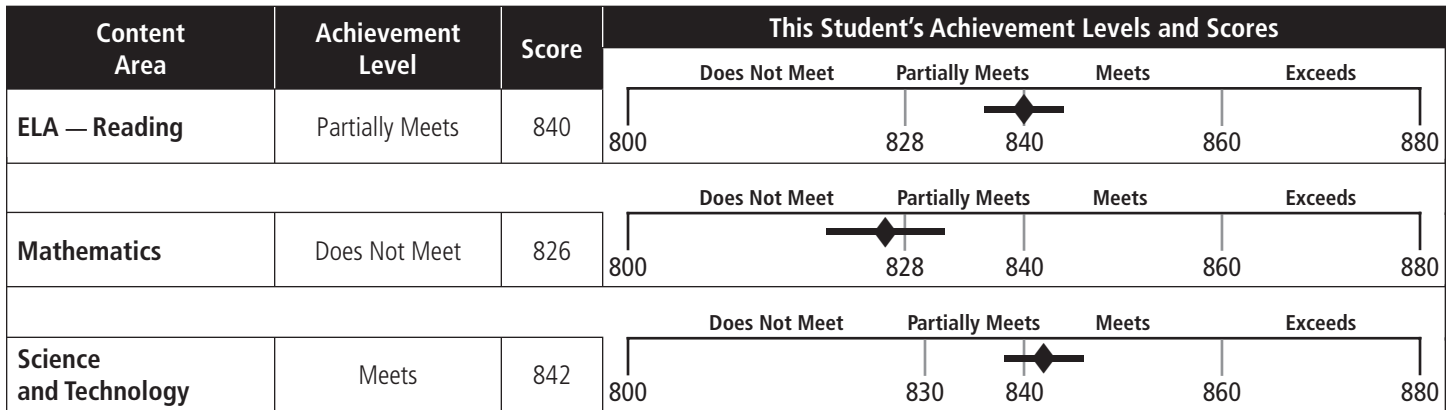
Physical Sciences: E. Structure of Matter, H. Energy, I. Motion

Earth and Space Sciences: D. Continuity and Change, F. The Earth,
G. The Universe

Nature and Implications of Science: J. Inquiry and Problem Solving,
K. Scientific Reasoning, L. Communication, M. Implications of
Science and Technology

Writing: The MEA assesses a student's writing skills at grade 5 based on a narrative writing prompt measuring content standards G. Stylistic and Rhetorical Aspects of Writing and F. Standard English Conventions, as defined in Maine's 1997 *Learning Results*.

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See reverse side for description of achievement levels.

The diamond (◆) represents the student's score. The bar (————) surrounding the score represents the probable range of scores for the student if he or she were to be tested many times. This statistic is called the standard error of measurement.

This Student's Achievement Levels Relative to Student Achievement for School, SAU, and State

	ELA — Reading				Mathematics				Science and Technology			
	Student	School	SAU	State	Student	School	SAU	State	Student	School	SAU	State
Exceeds the Standards		11%	18%	23%		3%	9%	11%		5%	9%	16%
Meets the Standards		54%	48%	48%		46%	39%	40%	✓	51%	48%	51%
Partially Meets the Standards	✓	18%	20%	18%		25%	23%	25%		34%	32%	21%
Does Not Meet the Standards		17%	14%	11%	✓	26%	30%	24%		11%	11%	12%

This Student's Performance in Content Area Subcategories

ELA — Reading	Total Possible Points	Student Points Earned	Average Points Earned		
			School	SAU	State
Literary Text	28	14	17.0	17.9	18.3
Informational Text	28	18	17.4	17.7	18.6

Science and Technology	Total Possible Points	Student Points Earned	Average Points Earned		
			School	SAU	State
Life Sciences	14	10	7.2	7.4	8.1
Physical Sciences	14	5	6.7	6.6	7.3
Earth and Space Sciences	14	7	7.1	7.3	7.7
Nature & Implications of Science	14	6	7.7	8.0	8.5

Mathematics	Total Possible Points	Student Points Earned	Average Points Earned		
			School	SAU	State
Numbers and Operations	16	4	7.6	7.6	8.4
Shape and Size	14	4	5.7	5.9	5.9
Mathematical Decision Making	8	6	4.4	4.5	4.6
Patterns	18	3	8.6	8.5	8.9