



Spring 2024 Maine Through Year Assessment

RIT Score Recalculation: A Notice for Families

In spring 2024, your child participated in the Maine Through Year Assessment in Reading and Math. The Maine Through Year Assessment is an innovative assessment that provides teachers with information about students' achievement according to grade-level state standards as well as information comparing your child's academic achievement and growth to other students across the nation. The scores used for comparisons between students are called RIT scores. RIT scores are also used to measure a student's growth over time, both within one school year from fall to spring and across multiple grade levels.

Your child's school received preliminary RIT score results from the spring Maine Through Year Assessment in Reading and Math within 72 hours of testing. These RIT score results were considered preliminary because data validation analyses, or checks, are completed after testing ends to finalize scores, and sometimes based on these checks, scores may change.

In spring and summer 2024, Maine school teachers and administrators reached out to the Maine Department of Education Assessment Team due to concerns that the RIT scores their students were receiving on the Maine Through Year Assessment did not reflect the knowledge and skills that their students demonstrated in the classroom. As a result, Maine DOE began evaluating student RIT score patterns from the last four school years and requested that the assessment vendor, known as NWEA, complete additional data validation analyses. Results of these analyses showed that some of the questions students answered in spring 2024 were not placed at the correct difficulty level on the RIT scale. The questions were truly more difficult than where they were placed on the RIT scale, and students' score results were incorrectly lowered as a result.

NWEA has corrected the difficulty of these questions on the RIT scale, and RIT scores from spring 2024 have been recalculated. Because of the recalculation of RIT scores, you may see differences in your child's RIT score achievement and growth. These new scores are better measures of your child's true achievement and growth in comparison to their peers nationwide.

If you have any questions regarding your child's academic achievement, please reach out to your child's teacher or school.