

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regional School Unit No. 73



Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year, and I wish your child(ren) a very successful year. The purpose of this letter is to provide you information on our use of standardized testing and your rights as a parent.

Spruce Mountain School District School's use the NWEA standardized assessment in K-10th grades. The assessment is given two to three times per year, and it is helpful in identifying areas of strength and where additional supports and interventions are needed. A typical administration of the NWEA assessment varies by grade level and averages 45 minutes.

The only other standardized assessments given to all students are mandated by the State and Federal governments. These include the (1) Maine Educational Assessment, which is given in grades 3 through 8, (2) the SAT and MEA science assessment, which is given in the 11th grade and (3) the MEA ACCESS, which measures the English language proficiency of students identified as English learners. More information is available at www.maine.gov/doe/assessment/index.html.

The schedule of our standardized assessments is listed on our website under the tab, Student Assessment Information at www.rsu73.com. It is your parental right to opt your child out of these tests, if you wish. At the same time, the federal guidelines expect schools to have a minimum 95% participation of their student body take the State MEA assessment. Schools who do not reach the 95% threshold are subject to penalties.

If you wish to have your child(ren) not take any or all of these standardized assessments, please complete the form on the reverse side of this letter and drop it off at the applicable school office. The form is also available on the RSU#73 website under the District Assessment Information tab.

Sincerely,

Chris Hollingsworth
Curriculum/Technology Coordinator
Spruce Mtn. School District