

# Congin Elementary School

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Dear Congin Families,

In compliance with regulations set by the federal government's No Child Left Behind legislation, all students in grades 3-8 throughout the United States are required to take an annual assessment. This year, the state of Maine has partnered with other New England states and will administer the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP.) This assessment replaces the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) which students have taken for many years. The NECAP is an extremely important set of tests that measure a student's individual progress toward achieving Maine's Learning Results. It also measures and reports on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of our school and district, a Federal requirement. Third and fourth graders will take three tests in reading and math. Fifth graders will take three tests in reading, math, and writing.

The NECAP begins on Monday, October 5 and will continue for several days, although not every child will take tests every day. Each test typically lasts about 90 minutes. Most children will be tested in their own classroom, but some students who have an IEP, 504 plan, or is learning English as a second language may take their tests with special accommodations with our specialists in different settings. We will begin every morning at 8:30 am, so it is important that the children have a good start to their day. Attendance is especially important on testing days. Make up tests will be administered for students who are absent or late. As always, we will maintain a positive, confident environment for the children. We hope that you will encourage your child to concentrate and do their best every day. Make every effort to have the children at school on time, ready to work. You may want to give them a special breakfast or plan a special treat when they get home. Talk about the NECAP at home and ask them how they think they did every day. Above all, remind them of how proud you are of them and that you appreciate the fine work that they do. Your child's teacher will contact you about sending in special snacks for the class to celebrate and acknowledge their hard work, and we are planning a special celebration at the end of the testing period as well. Our students and teachers work hard at learning every day. We are proud of our Cougars, and we want them to shine on this year's NECAP.

I am confident that our combined efforts will create a successful round of NECAP testing here at Congin School. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Peter Lancia  
Principal