



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

Jon Doty – Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Chapter 104 Services – E.M. Reading Recovery Site – NCLB/ESSA
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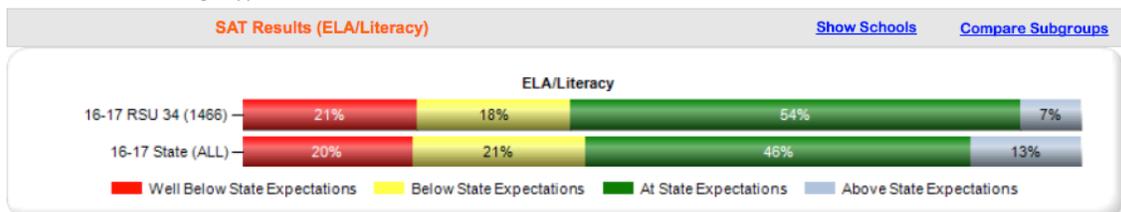
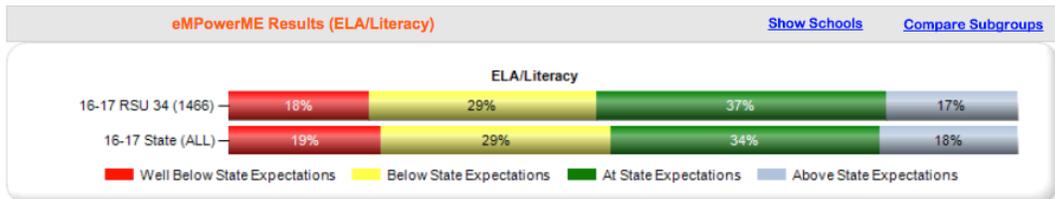
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights

*Last week we welcomed a state DOE employee to visit our Pre-K classrooms as part of the Chapter 124 monitoring conducted at all districts. She spent a day and a half visiting our classrooms. We had a positive follow-up conversation including all of the Pre-K teachers and building administrators, and she will follow up with written feedback to the teachers.

*PSAT testing at OTHS was Wednesday of last week; the staff as always worked hard to make a great testing environment for the students, and the students rose to the challenge with good focus and respect. Much thanks to Amy Ketch and Sue St. Louis for all of the work they put into preparing for the testing day, and to the other RSU #34 schools for lending lots of calculators!

*On September 25th, the state publicly released assessment data from the March/April administration of the ELA, mathematics, and science state assessments. RSU #34 brings the state data together with our local assessment data to give teachers a comprehensive profile of each student's strengths and needs. With our local assessments we can use the information to guide the next day's instruction; unfortunately the state data is of limited instructional value for individual students as the data is months old by the time it's provided to us. However, the state data can provide a snapshot of our efforts.

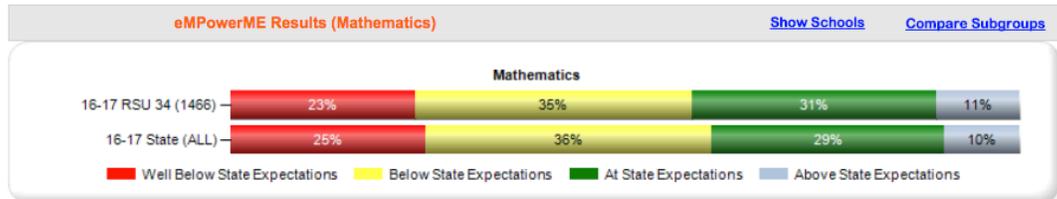
The ELA state assessments are given in grades 3-8 (eMPowerME) and 11 (SAT). RSU #34's participation rate in ELA exceeded the state average and our students' achievement at or above state standards was better than the state in grades 3-8, grade 11, and overall. Our staff continues to work hard at implementing and refining our instructional plans in reading and writing.



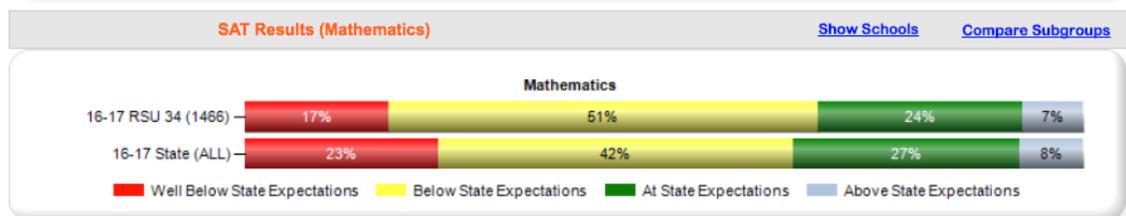
The mathematics state assessments are given in grades 3-8 (eMPowerME) and

Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.

11 (SAT). RSU #34's participation rate exceeded the state average and our students' achievement at or above state standards was better than the state in grades 3-8 and overall (but not in grade 11). It's important to note that the state has set its mathematics standards at a point where 65% of the juniors tested in the state do not meet the standard. We're encouraged by our progress on the snapshot provided by eMPowerME, as we rolled out our new K-5 math program in 2015. This school year we began rollout of our new middle school math program, and this summer we began our search process for the next core math program at Old Town High School.

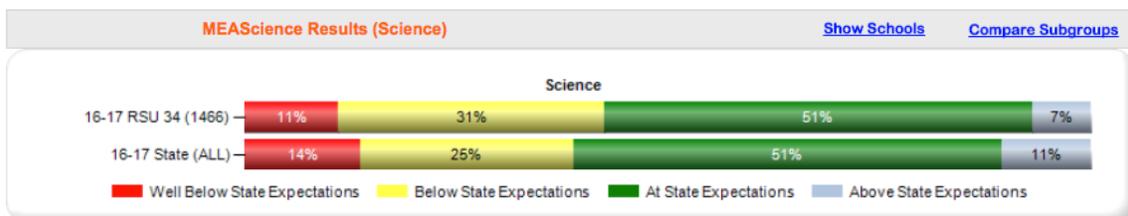


eMPowerME is the ELA/Literacy and mathematics assessment taken by most of the students in grades 3-8. More information about this assessment can be found here: <http://maine.gov/doe/assessment/math-ela/home.html>.



SAT is the ELA/Literacy and mathematics assessment taken by most students in the 3rd year of high school. More information about this assessment can be found here: <http://maine.gov/doe/assessment/math-ela/home.html>.

The science state assessments (MEA-Science) are given in grades 5, 8, and 11. RSU #34's participation rate exceeded the state average; our students' achievement did not quite meet the state's average. However we're careful not to read too much into the state's science assessment; we began revising our science programming in 2012 to meet modern "Next Generation" science standards including engineering and robotics; the state still assesses based on the older 2007 standards which do not include some important fields to which we dedicate substantial instructional time.



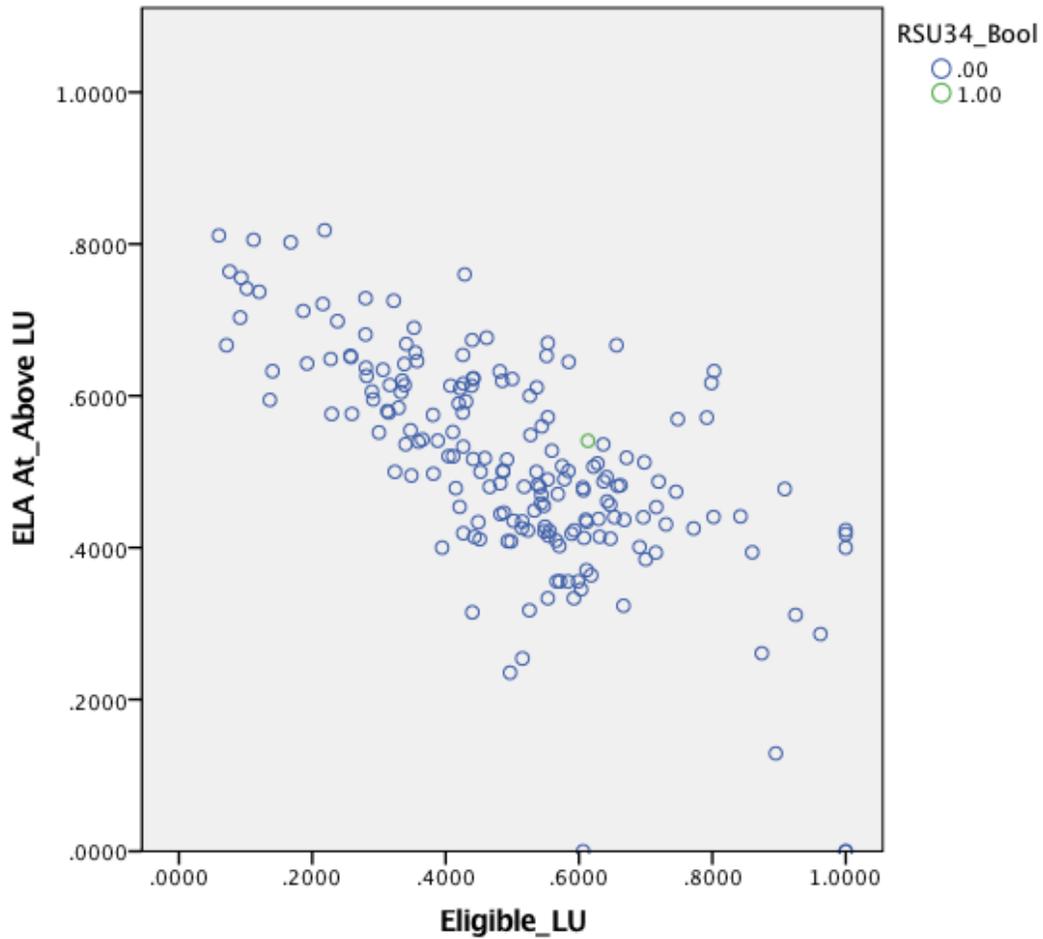
MEA Science is the science assessment taken by most of the students in grades 5 and 8 and in the 3rd year of high school. More information about this assessment can be found here: <http://maine.gov/doe/assessment/science/index.html>.

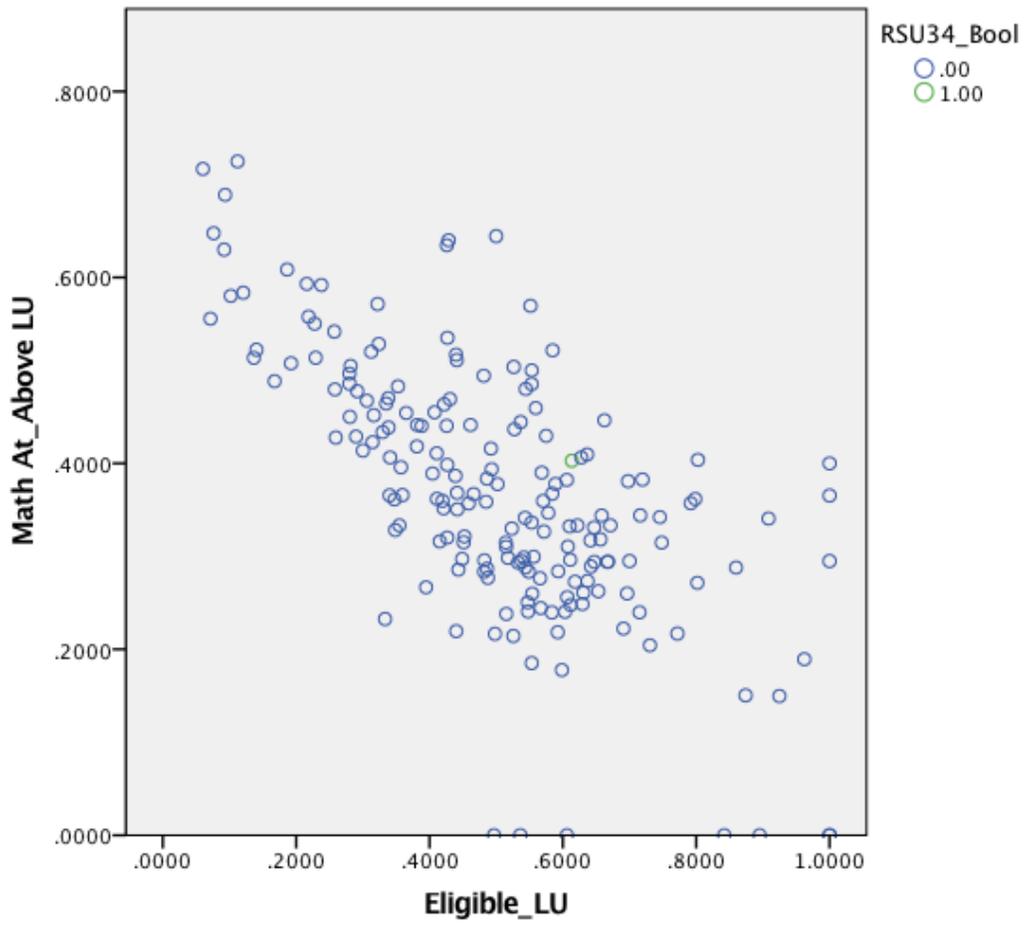
Parents can access and get help understanding their student's "ISR" (individual student report) by contacting RSU #34's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Jon.Doty@rsu34.org.

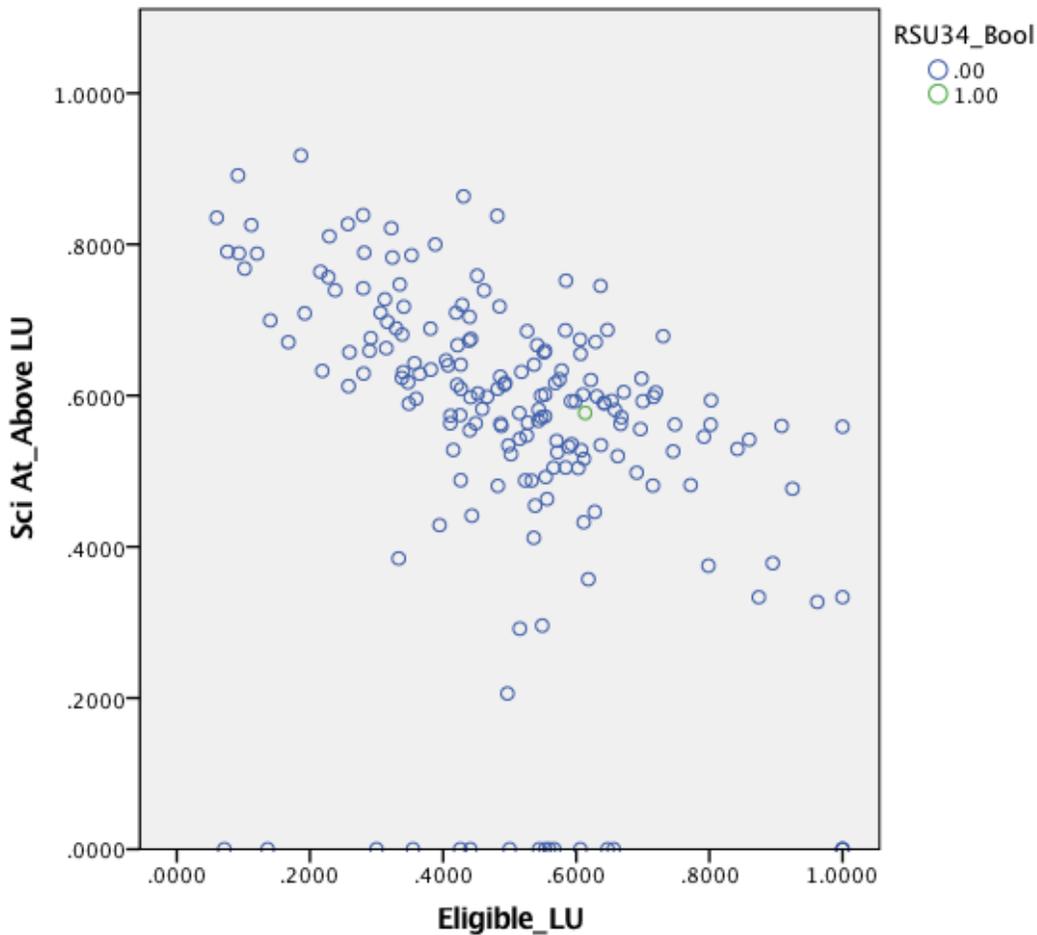
There are many factors that influence a student's performance on an assessment. As with last year, the state assessment data correlate with

students' eligibility for free and reduced-price lunch (we are the green circle on each of the three graphs below).

Remember that correlation does not necessarily mean causation. As the % of students in the district eligible for F/R lunch increases, the performance on each assessment tends to decrease. As you know our schools make great effort to help mitigate students' risk factors, including economic challenges, and we work hard to raise all students' aspirations, engagement, and achievement.







Chapter 104 Program Highlights

- We are sending a strong team to the New England Conference on Gifted & Talented Education, taking advantage of lower travel costs as Maine hosts this year's conference. Much thanks to the building administrators for arranging substitutes to send our team!

OTHS STEM Leaders Program and Honors Diploma Program Highlights

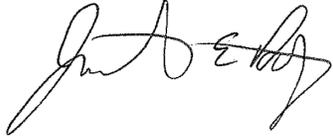
- We have an unusually large class of juniors seeking to earn our diplomas of extra distinction, so Mrs. Gardner is looking ahead and working hard to help them get an early start on service efforts and internships. If you know of anyone in STEM fields who would be a good match for a STEM Diploma intern, please share your ideas with Brenda.Gardner@rsu34.org - thanks!

Title IA Program

- Over the course of the next year, all districts in Maine which receive Titled federal funds will be conducting a revised Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Consolidated Plan. Members of the public are welcome

to provide input into this process, which will inform how we allocate federal funds. For more information please contact Jon Doty (jon.doty@rsu34.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Doty", written in a cursive style.

Jon Doty