

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

October 20, 2016

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Key: information Tech Coordinators also need to know
 supports and accommodations information

Final Submission of Early Literacy and Mathematics Tests

Friday, October 21, 2016 is the end of the testing window for the Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics benchmarks for school districts using the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)-provided benchmarks. All testing **must** be completed by the end of the instructional day.

School Technology Directors/Coordinators should check their Testing Site Managers (TSMs) after all testing has completed for the day. Any unsent responses should be pushed to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). On Monday, DRC will also attempt to pull any unsent responses. This will ensure that all responses are scored and appear on your reports.

Please see the [Technology User Guide](#), available on [eDIRECT](#) (<https://mi.drccdirect.com>) under **All Applications** → **General Information** → **Documents**, for information on viewing and sending unsent responses.

Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Survey

The MDE is seeking feedback from Assessment Administrators (usually classroom teachers), Proctors, and Technology Coordinators regarding the online administration of the Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment. Feedback results will be used to guide decision-making for future enhancements and development.

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There are two surveys, one for [Assessment Administrators and Proctors](#) and one for [Technology Coordinators](#). You can access these surveys on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) under **What's New**.

Please complete these surveys by **November 11, 2016**.

Online Testing Waiver Window

In Spring 2017, the M-STEP, MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), and WIDAACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessments will be administered online. A paper/pencil version of the assessments will be available for schools that are not yet ready to make the transition to online assessments. If your school is not yet ready to administer online assessments, we ask that you provide us with information about the reason(s) why the school will delay online administration. This is the last year that an online testing waiver will be available. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) staff will be available to work with schools finishing their preparations to transition to online testing in future years. Paper tests will still be available as individual accommodations.

Districts will have an opportunity to submit online waiver request(s) for their school to administer the paper/pencil version of M-STEP, MI-Access FI, and WIDAACCESS 2.0 assessments **October 24 – November 23, 2016**. Districts must submit the online waiver request(s) by November 23, 2016 in order to obtain the paper/pencil materials needed. **It is important to note that requests for EACH school and EACH assessment must be submitted separately.**

Considerations:

- Online assessment is now the default administration mode for M-STEP, MI-Access FI, and WIDAACCESS for ELLs 2.0. This does not preclude schools from ordering and administering

paper/ pencil tests to individual students based on need. MDE will not approve online waiver requests for schools that administered online versions of the assessments in 2016.

- Schools that are administering online, but have individual students who need to use a paper/pencil form due to a disability or for another reason, will not need to request an online waiver. These individual student requests will be handled separately, through a separate material ordering process that will be communicated in detail at a later time.
- The WIDAACCESS 2.0 assessment uses the same Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) software as M-STEP and MI-ACCESS FI.
- WIDAACCESS 2.0 will require the use of a microphone to capture a student's Speaking responses.
- A school (or building) is the smallest unit that may request an online waiver. A school may not apply to have only certain grades or content areas take the paper/pencil assessments.
- MDE will not be able to honor online waiver requests after November 23, 2016 unless an emergency occurs that would prevent a school from testing online.

Process:

- Requests for an online waiver must be submitted through the MDE Secure Site by a user with District Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator access using the process found in the [Online Waiver Request](#) document on the MDE [Secure Site Training web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/secsitesite/training) under **Quick References** → **Miscellaneous**.

Pupil Accounting Steps for Previous WIDA Scores in the Secure Site

Educators can view previous WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT), WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Scores in the Secure Site, if a student's Primary Education Providing Entity (PEPE) has been set to the current district in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).

Pupil accounting personnel can submit a Single Record Maintenance (SRM) even while MSDS collection windows are open. Pupil accounting staff should ensure the SRM shows an **As of Date after October 5, 2016**.

Waiting to the fall certification date to claim students who are potential English Learners (ELs) may have the negative impact of increased testing for some students. It is possible that a student was already screened with the W-APT in a sending district, and without the knowledge that this was already completed, a receiving district may unnecessarily rescreen the student.

For questions pertaining to MSDS, please contact the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) at 517-335-0505 ext. 3.

For directions on how to view a student's testing history, please refer to the [Accessing New Student's State Assessment Scores](#) document located on the [Secure Site Training web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) under **Quick References** → **Pre-Identification/Student Search**.

Spring 2017 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Announcements

Michigan-Specific Activities

Because the WIDA assessments are shared by many states, much of the information found on the wida.us site is not state-specific. Michigan educators who will be coordinating or administering the Spring 2017 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 must keep in mind the following information as they review currently available training materials, attend WIDA webinars, and review manuals.

Michigan educators do **NOT** conduct the activities listed below in the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS):

- Pre-ID students for testing
- order initial materials
- add new students directly into AMS
- create new WIDA AMS users directly in AMS
- update student demographics
- data validation

With the exception of updating student demographics, the activities listed above occur in the Secure Site. Student demographic information must be updated in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).

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Michigan-Specific Test Administrator Manual & WIDA AMS User Guide

The current non-Michigan specific [Test Administrator Manual](#) and [WIDA AMS User Guide](#) are available on the [WIDA website](https://www.wida.us) (<https://www.wida.us>) under **Assessment** → **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0**. The Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) will provide a **Michigan-specific Test Administrator Manual** online later this fall. However, districts will be shipped the non-Michigan specific Test Administrator Manual with test materials in late January.

WIDA Webinars

WIDA is offering a series of webinars throughout the year that focus on educator preparation for the summative Spring 2017 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment. Please keep in mind that the information presented in these webinars is **not** Michigan-specific, so educators must keep in mind that the list of functions (on the previous page), will occur in the MDE Secure Site and **not** WIDA AMS. A [list of the webinars](#) can be found on the [WIDA website](http://www.wida.com/us) (www.wida.com/us).

MI-Access and the Essential Elements with Michigan Range of Complexity

MI-Access, Michigan's alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards, is aligned to Michigan's alternate academic content standards for English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. The most recent revision to the alternate standards was the shift to using the Essential Elements with Michigan Range of Complexity for ELA and mathematics. These revised academic content standards were made available for classroom use in the fall of 2015. The alignment of these standards to the MI-Access assessments occurred in Spring 2016. The Essential Elements are posted to the [MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) in

the **Professional Development** section. The Essential Elements are listed on the site by grade level and content area.

The Michigan Range of Complexity (High, Medium, and Low) outlines a progression of skills leading to each target essential element. This range is defined for each Essential Element that is assessed using MI-Access. Each level of the range corresponds to the expectations measured by each of the three levels of MI-Access as follows:

Michigan Range of Complexity	Corresponding MI-Access Level
High	Functional Independence
Medium	Supported Independence
Low	Participation

The range of complexity is only defined for those grade levels and target Essential Elements that are measured using MI-Access. This allows individualized pathways to be developed at the classroom level, potentially different for each student as he or she works toward each target Essential Element. The target Essential Elements are the same version released by the Dynamic Learning Maps consortium in 2014. Michigan educators were a part of this consortium that shaped the creation of these target Essential Elements.

Please note for social studies and science:

Michigan's alternate content standards remain the Extended Grade Level Content Expectations and Extended High School Content Expectations for social studies, and Extended Benchmarks for science.

MI-Access is intended only for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are working toward alternate academic content standards.

New Functionalities in the Dynamic Reporting Site

We have made updates to the Dynamic Reporting Site to provide you with more data and more ways to view the 2016 M-STEP data.

First, you can now download a CSV file for the district and school Target Analysis Report to view detailed aggregate data. Select the CSV icon in the upper right-hand corner of the report, next to the Information and PDF buttons:



Also, you can use the new Bulk Print option to print all individual level reports for a school: the Individual Student Report, the Student Overview, and the Parent Report. Select the Bulk Print icon in the upper right-hand corner of the report, next to the Information and PDF buttons:



Technology Upgrades for Spring 2017 Testing

The first two years of online testing in Michigan were some of the best in the nation. Lessons learned from those years were applied to system upgrades over the summer of 2016, and we are expecting even smoother online testing in 2017. New versions of the software

have been deployed and are being successfully used in fall testing. Early Literacy and Mathematics testing found one bug, fixed that same week. Before M-STEP testing in the spring, many states will have used the software for WIDA and statewide testing, so remaining bumps should be ironed out before 2017 testing.

Some specific improvements for the new year:

- INSIGHT will try to re-connect automatically in the event of a disconnection. After three failed connection attempts, it will log out as it has in previous years. This should vastly reduce the number of disconnect issues seen this year.
- DRC has set up a monitoring server to actively monitor statewide connection issues.
- 64-bit TSMs can support more simultaneous testers.
- TSM content caching has improved download, reconnect, and validation tools, along with better download transparency. This means no more corrupt content files.
- TSMs have improved response handling, including automatically sending “stuck” files.
- TSM includes remote visibility and access for DRC customer service, rather than asking you to send logs and files.

We look forward to Spring 2017 testing with confidence. Technology coordinators and directors across Michigan school districts are very competent and collaborative, and the MDE and DRC stand ready to support districts.

iPad INSIGHT App

On Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) deployed an updated version (7.1) of the iPad INSIGHT app to the Apple store. This app is **REQUIRED for WIDA**. It contains an update to support a smoother administration of the Speaking domain.

This update is optional for non-WIDA clients (i.e., M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and

Mathematics), which means these programs can continue to use the current 7.0 version or choose to use the new 7.1 version.

Whether or not iPads will update to this new version automatically is determined by how each client/site/tech coordinator has set up their Mobile Device Management (MDM).

Please call the DRC helpdesk with any questions or concerns at 877-560-8378, Option 2.

SAT Corner

Information on SAT™, PSAT 8/9™, and PSAT10™ provided by the College Board

Questions about Spring PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, or SAT?

Call the Michigan customer service line at 866-870-3127 (select Option 1) or email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org.

Accommodated Testing Window and Two-Day Consecutive Testing for Students on the NAR

This spring, schools will have 10 days to complete testing for students with accommodations that appear on the Nonstandard Accommodations Roster (NAR) for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT. The window is **April 11 – 25, 2017**.

For students approved for testing over two days, the policy is that these students must test on two consecutive days for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT. However, if a student is absent on the second day of testing, they can now simply resume testing on the next day that they return to school. This may be different than what you have heard in the

Implementation Workshops as we were able to modify this aspect of the policy.

Testing must be completed within the two-week accommodations window regardless of when the student starts. The following list of accommodations qualify for two-day testing for SAT School Day:

- **PSAT 8/9:**
 - ◆ MP3 Audio
 - ◆ 100% extended time (reading)
- **PSAT 10:**
 - ◆ MP3 Audio
 - ◆ 100% extended time (reading)
- **SAT:**
 - ◆ MP3 Audio
 - ◆ 50% extended time (reading)
 - ◆ 100% extended time (reading)

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- ◆ 100% extended time (math and writing combined)
- ◆ Use of a writer/scribe
- ◆ Use of a reader
- ◆ Limited time testing (students who are specifically approved to test over multiple days)

Nonpublic Intent to Test

For a nonpublic school in Michigan, participation in the MME is optional. Therefore nonpublic schools need to notify the College Board of their intent to participate in spring testing.

1. Review the roles listed in EEM

- ◆ If you need to make updates, contact Tami Feldpausch at nonpublicschools@michigan.gov.

2. Using the contact information in EEM, College Board will send an email to all schools requesting confirmation of their intent to participate in MME or PSAT.

- ◆ Confirmation of testing intent is required by November 15, 2016.
 - ◆ To ensure your school is included in the pre-identification processes, call 866-870-3127 (select Option 1) or email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org.
 - ◆ Provide your state-assigned District and Building codes, the name of your school, and the names of the assessments you wish to administer.
 - ◆ If you choose to administer the SAT, you **must administer all parts** of the MME.
 - ◆ If you choose to administer the PSAT, you must administer both the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10.
- ### 3. College Board will provide a confirmation to the Test Center Supervisor in December with the school's AI code and test center code.

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

Early Literacy and Mathematics

- **Friday, October 21, 2016:** Window for the Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments for grades 1 and 2 **CLOSES**.

Coming Next Week . . .

Science Assessment Webinar

- **Monday, Oct 24, 2016 – 9:00 to 10:30 AM:** Webinar to review the timeline for the implementation of the Michigan K-12 Science Assessments, and to answer questions from participants.

October 2016

Supports and Accommodations Webinars

- **Monday, October 31, 2016 – 9:00 to 10:00 AM:** Student Supports for Hearing Impaired Students

WIDA, M-STEP, and MI-Access

- **October 24 – November 23, 2016:** **Online Testing Waiver** request window

November 2016

WIDA

- **Wednesday, November 2 and Thursday, November 3, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM:** WIDA Workshop for School Leaders: Leading Schools for Language Learner Achievement – **REGISTRATION IS CLOSED**.
- **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM:** WIDA Workshop for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. For more information and to register, go to the [Fall 2016 WIDA Workshops Registration page](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fall2016WIDAworkshops) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fall2016WIDAworkshops) – **Registration is still OPEN, but space is limited.**

Supports and Accommodations Webinars

- **Monday, November 14, 2016, 9:00 – 10:00 AM:** English Learner Student Supports
- **Monday, November 21, 2016, 9:00 – 10:00 AM:** Read Aloud and Text-to-Speech

▶ Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.