

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

February 16, 2017

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Should My Students Take the Alternate Assessment?


MI-Access is currently Michigan's alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. The following guidance is helpful in considering if a student should be taking the alternate assessment or the general assessment.

It is the role of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine which assessment a student should take. The following guiding questions are provided for the IEP team to consider:

1. Does the student have or function as if he/she has a significant cognitive impairment?
 - No** – student should take M-STEP/MME
 - Yes** – Go to question 2
2. Which is the student's instruction most closely aligned to (consider each content area independently)?
 - General content standards** - student should take M-STEP/MME
 - Alternate content standards** - consider MI-Access - go to question 3
 - ◆ Essential Elements for English/language arts (ELA) or Mathematics
 - ◆ Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCEs)/Extended High School Content Expectations (EHSCEs) for Social Studies
 - ◆ Extended Benchmarks for Science)
3. If the student is working toward alternate content expectations, which of the following is most closely aligned to the student's goals and objectives and instructional approach?

Key:  information Tech Coordinators also need to know

 supports and accommodations information

 Reminder (previously run article)

(Continued on next page)

- **Functional Independence** (should be chosen if both are true):
 - ◆ Alignment closest to the High range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics
 - ◆ With guidance, the student can typically assess personal strengths and limitations and can access resources, strategies, and supports to help him/her maximize independence. However, based on his/her disability, the student is not able to work toward the general content expectations.
- **Supported Independence** (should be chosen if both are true):
 - ◆ Alignment closest to the Medium range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics
 - ◆ The student requires ongoing support in major life roles and may have cognitive and/or physical impairments that limit his/her ability to generalize or transfer learning. The instructional approach taken is usually direct, in context, and targeted toward specific, essential independent living and academic skills.
- **Participation** (should be chosen if both are true):
 - ◆ Alignment closest to the Low range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics
 - ◆ The student is expected to require extensive ongoing support in adulthood and may have significant cognitive and/or physical impairments that limit his/her ability to generalize or transfer learning. The student is typically dependent on others for most, if not all, daily living needs. The instructional approach usually targets opportunities for integration into age-appropriate tasks, activities related to daily living skills, and academic content.

Please note: A student's projected performance and projection for scoring proficient on the M-STEP should never be used as a criteria for selecting which assessment for a student to take.

Reporting Technical Issues

If you are having technical issues during WIDA testing, please contact your internal technical support. They know your system and its details. MDE encourages technology coordinators to reach out to DRC when troubleshooting issues:

- email: WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com
- phone: 1-877-560-8378, option 5

DRC has answers for common issues and an established path for escalating issues that lack standard solutions. This is also how DRC becomes aware of emerging issues. If you are facing recurring issues or issues that are not being resolved in a timely manner, please file an incident report and/or contact baa@michigan.gov for assistance in escalating your support ticket.

Optional Supports and Accommodations Worksheets

Downloadable Designated Supports and Accommodations Worksheets that are grade- and content area-specific are now available on the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep). These worksheets are designed to help educators track and input information into eDIRECT. **Please note:** A full list of available Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations can be found in the Supports and Accommodations Table under each assessment's web page.

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement Grant

As a part of the State 2016-2017 school aid appropriations (PA 249 of 2016), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is releasing the Section 35a(3) and 104d Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement grant. Funds allocated under this grant provide \$4,500,000 for an equal per-pupil formula reimbursement to districts and public school academies (PSAs) that purchase a computer-adaptive assessment or one or more diagnostic tools, screening tools, or benchmark assessments that are intended to increase reading proficiency by grade 4.

Eligible applicants are districts and PSAs that have incurred a cost for the purchase of such an assessment prior to March 15, 2017 and the assessment must be administered to students during the 2016-2017 academic year.

The application for the Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement grant will remain available for districts and PSAs to apply until March 24, 2017. Districts and PSAs can find the application, instructions, and resources at this [link](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-367697--,00.html) (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-367697--,00.html). Allocated grant funds will be dependent upon number of applicants and based on a formula for an equal amount per pupil for which the assessment was purchased.

If you have any questions regarding the Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement grant, please contact MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

Michigan's ESSA State Plan Available for Public Comment

Michigan's Consolidated State Plan Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is drafted and open for public comment through **March 16, 2017**.

Michigan's draft plan and supporting documents, including a plan overview, can be accessed on the [ESSA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/essa) (www.michigan.gov/essa).

Individuals and organizations are invited to review the plan and submit comments through the following channels:

- **email comments to:** MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov
- **mail comments to:** ESSA State Plan Comments, Michigan Department of Education, State Superintendent Office, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909

All comments must arrive at MDE no later than close of business on **March 16, 2017**. We request that comments reflecting the official position of a group or organization be provided on organization letterhead, indicating specific areas of support or concern with various aspects of the plan.

MDE intends to submit the final plan to the U.S. Department of Education for review on April 3, 2017.

About Michigan's ESSA State Plan

Michigan's ESSA Plan aligns to the goals and strategies to make Michigan a Top 10 education state in the next 10 years. The plan is organized around four core components:

- Supports for Schools and Students
- Educator Quality
- Accountability
- Assessment

Learn more about Michigan's plan development and stakeholder engagement on the [ESSA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/essa) (www.michigan.gov/essa).

Visit our website to view archived copies of [ESSA Notes](#).

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues



New Science Pilot for Spring 2017

The Michigan Science Pilot Assessment will be available for Spring 2017 testing for students in grades 5, 8, and 11. This assessment is based on Michigan's recently adopted K-12 Science Standards. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is seeking schools and districts to volunteer to participate in the Science Pilot Assessment. This assessment is only offered online, and there are no accommodations provided other than typical online tools (highlighter, magnifier, color chooser, etc.). The science pilot will be conducted during the M-STEP testing window, **April 10, 2017 – May 26, 2017**.

Each participating student will be administered one item cluster consisting of a scenario and 5-8 questions. These item clusters are designed to take students 10-15 minutes to complete. There will also be a short survey for students at the end of the pilot assessment.

Schools may decide whether an entire class will participate in the pilot, or a subset of the class.

Since this is a pilot assessment, no data will be returned to schools or districts. The data captured will help MDE create a valid operational test for the Michigan K-12 Science Standards in the future.

If your school or district is interested in participating in Michigan's Science Standards (MSS) Pilot this spring, see the [February 9, 2017 Spotlight](#) (page 3) for detailed information on:

- pre-identification
- test session creation
- student log-in

Previous versions of the Spotlight can be found on any of the assessment web pages under the **General Information** section.

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 Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (select Option 1) or email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org.

Shipments

Materials have begun to arrive in schools this week. To help you plan for upcoming shipments, please refer to the table below. **Please note:** The contents listed are not inclusive of all materials but refer to the main items in each shipment.

Estimated Delivery	Contents of Shipment
February 15, 2017	Samples of SAT and PSAT manuals, sample forms, posters
March 6, 2017	PSAT 10 student guides
March 20-23, 2017	Test booklets, answer sheets, and pre-ID labels for all assessments, student data questionnaires, additional copies of all manuals, SAT school day fee waivers, posters, return labels
April 21, 2017	Makeup testing materials

Manuals

Michigan-specific testing manuals are now posted on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme). The implementation planning kit will contain samples of printed manuals. The number in parentheses below indicates how many manuals to expect in the February shipment. More manuals will be shipped with the testing materials. See information below about an upcoming webinar on how to use the manuals and other administrative tips.

The PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 supervisor manuals will include information on preparing for test day, providing accommodations, testing scripts, and information about the set-up and return of materials. (10 for each assessment)

- There is a separate manual for administering the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 using MP3 audio or assistive technology compatible (ATC) formats. (1 for each assessment)

The SAT manuals have been updated to provide specialized information to each type of test day staff.

- **Test Center Supervisor Manual** – includes information about the set-up and return of materials as well as administrative information such as preparing for test day. (2)

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Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

- **Testing Room Manual** – includes all test day scripts and information needed by associate supervisors. (10)
- **SSD Coordinator Manual** – includes expanded information on accommodations administration, test day scripts for testing students on the nonstandard administration report (NAR) including students testing with MP3 audio or assistive technology compatible (ATC) formats, and instructions for returning accommodated materials. (2)

Online Attendance Rosters

This year, SAT test center supervisors will have access to the supervisor's online attendance roster (SOAR). The online attendance roster is a tool that lists all students who will test under the supervision of the test center supervisor. The online attendance roster is not available for PSAT. The SAT test center supervisor will receive an email from ETS (Educational Testing Service) indicating that you are able to set up your account to access the online attendance roster. This is a separate account with ETS and is different than your College Board professional login. The email will also contain a link to a helpful guide on how to sign up for an account. Similarly, the SSD coordinator will have access to the nonstandard administration report (NAR) that will list all of the students who will test under the supervision of the SSD coordinator. The NAR is available for both the SAT and PSAT-related assessments and accessible from the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Online Dashboard.

PLEASE NOTE: Students will not be populated in the NAR or online attendance roster until March 24, 2017.

Test center supervisors and SSD coordinators should work together to create initial room rosters based on students who have been pre-identified in the Secure Site and students who have been approved for accommodations in SSD Online. Students pre-identified after the deadline may take 7-10 days to display on the roster. If you are testing students at an approved off-site testing location, please access the roster using the test center number assigned to your AI, not each off-site testing location as we will not know which location students will be assigned to.

On test day, the online attendance roster and NAR should be used to track the attendance of students testing. The rosters will be returned with your materials. Before returning, make a copy for your records.

More information about using rosters will be offered in an upcoming webinar (see below):

Upcoming Webinars

- **REVISED DATE: SAT and PSAT Administrative Testing Tips – March 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST:** Focused on reviewing the manuals, test day strategies such as the distribution and collection of calculators, procedures for conducting a preadministration session, etc.
[Register](http://www.tinyurl.com/MITestingTips) (www.tinyurl.com/MITestingTips)
- **Using Rosters for Administering the SAT – March 28, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST:** How to use the online attendance roster and NAR to help finalize room assignments.
[Register](http://www.tinyurl.com/MIRosters) (www.tinyurl.com/MIRosters)

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

Important Dates

February 2017

Paper/Pencil Testing

Now – March 17, 2017:

- **WIDA** Additional Materials Order Window in WIDAAMS

Online Testing

Now – February 27, 2017:

- Online Test Session setup in Secure Site for **M-STEP**, **MI-Access**, and **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

Now – May 26, 2017:

- Pre-ID of students for online testing for **M-STEP**, **MI-Access**, **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**, and **Michigan Science Pilot Assessment**.

Online and Paper/Pencil Testing

February 28, 2017 from 10:00–11:00 AM:

- **M-STEP** Administration Training: Click to [Register](https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com) (https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com)

Now – March 24, 2017:

- **WIDA ACCESS** for ELLs 2.0 and **WIDA Alternate ACCESS** for ELLs testing window

Now – May 26, 2017:

- Off-site Test Administration request window (for individual students such as homebound or expelled with service students) for **M-STEP** and **MI-Access**. Submit request [here](https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/offsite-test-administration-request-spring-2017/) (https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/offsite-test-administration-request-spring-2017/)

March 2017

Online and Paper/Pencil Testing

March 1, 2017 from 10:00–11:00 AM:

- **MI-Access** Administration Training: Click to [Register](https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com) (https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com)

March 2, 2017 from 10:00–11:00 AM:

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics** Administration Training: Click to [Register](https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com) (https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com)

March 3, 2017 from 10:00–11:00 AM:

- **Michigan Science Standards Pilot** Administration Training: Click to [Register](https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com) (https://datarecognitioncorp.audio.webex.com)

March 8, 2017 from 2:30–4:00 PM:

- **MI-Access** Spring 2017 Administration Webcast MStreamnet.org (Live and Archived)

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

Paper/Pencil Testing

REVISED DATE: March 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST:

- **SAT and PSAT** Administrative Testing Tips webinar – Focused on reviewing the manuals, test day strategies such as the distribution and collection of calculators, procedures for conducting a preadministration session, etc.

[Register](http://www.tinyurl.com/MITestingTips) (www.tinyurl.com/MITestingTips)

March 21, 2017 at 3:30 PM:

- **ACT WorkKeys Q & A Session #2:** Registration will need to be completed 48 hours prior to the session date:
[Session 2](https://act.ilinc.com/register/tywwmbx) (https://act.ilinc.com/register/tywwmbx)

March 28, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST:

- Using Rosters for Administering the **SAT** webinar – How to use the online attendance roster and NAR to help finalize room assignments.

[Register](http://www.tinyurl.com/MIRosters) (www.tinyurl.com/MIRosters)

Have Questions?

Email BAA@michigan.gov for assessment questions.

Email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov for accountability questions.

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues