

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

March 2, 2017

Quick Links... take you directly to articles or sections...

- [MI-Access Spring 2017 Administration Webcast](#)
- [Spring 2017 WIDA Workshops Registration is Now Open](#)
- [MI-Access Test Administration Manuals Available NOW](#)
- [M-STEP Test Administration Manual Available NOW](#)



[2017 Supports and Accommodations Table Now Available](#)

- [Video Tutorials, Online Sample Item Sets, and Online Tools Training](#)
- [Every Student Succeeds Act and the 1% Assessment](#)
- [New WIDA Screener](#)
- [Issue Identified in Mass Assigning Student Supports and Accommodations in eDIRECT](#)



[New Science Pilot for Spring 2017](#)

- [SAT Corner](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Recently Asked Questions...](#)

MI-Access Spring 2017 Administration Webcast

The Office of Standards and Assessment is hosting a 90-minute webcast on “Administering the 2017 MI-Access Assessments.” The webcast will be live streamed **Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM** on [MI Streamnet](http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3836/administering-the-2017-mi-access-assessments) (<http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3836/administering-the-2017-mi-access-assessments>). District and building coordinators and other district and school staff involved with administering the MI-Access Assessments (including teachers giving the assessments) should plan to attend to receive important MI-Access test administration instructions. Participants will have an opportunity to submit questions during the webcast, and presenters will address those questions shortly before its conclusion. To submit questions during the webcast, email MDE-webcastquestions@michigan.gov. This webcast will be recorded, closed captioned, and posted on [MI Streamnet](http://mistreamnet.org) (<http://mistreamnet.org>), as well as on the [MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) within one week following the webcast.

Spring 2017 WIDA Workshops Registration is Now Open

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and WIDA are offering three free workshops this spring that may be of interest to school improvement teams, Title III directors, English Learner (EL) educators, building-level administrators, WIDA test coordinators, and content area teachers. The workshops are designed to offer in-depth training for using the student achievement results in meaningful and appropriate ways for school improvement purposes and administering the online and paper-based screener assessments. For more information and to register for a workshop, go to the [Spring 2017 WIDA Workshops Registration page](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIDASpringWorkshops) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIDASpringWorkshops>). Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

(Continued on next page)

Key:



Reminder (previously run article)



supports and accommodations information

The workshops and dates are:

Workshop 1: WIDA Workshop for School Leaders: Leading Schools for Language Learner Achievement

NOTE: This workshop is only open to building and district level administrators and Title III directors.

This two-day workshop will engage school leaders in reflection and planning leadership actions that will build vision, learning processes, and systems to support language learner achievement. Participants will consider how opportunity to learn and the academic language development of ELs is directly supported by: (a) Engaging Students in Collaborative Learning; (b) Supporting Systematic Teacher Collaboration; (c) Focusing on Reciprocal Family Engagement; and (d) Sustaining Cross-disciplinary Data Teams Focused on Creating Equitable Systems.

School leaders will consult national policy documents and WIDA resources in order to prepare to establish school language policies, implement the WIDA Standards Framework, and capitalize on school improvement processes to support language learner achievement. School leaders will identify next steps toward a school improvement process that advances educational opportunity and academic language achievement for language learners. They will synthesize their learning from colleagues and experts in the fields of leadership and language learning and apply it to school-specific action steps.

Districts should consider sending building and district level administrators as well as Title III directors.

Breakfast, lunch, and a light afternoon snack will be provided.

Dates of Workshop: Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (registration and breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 AM)

Location: Troy School District Administration Building, 4400 Livernois Rd., Troy MI 48098

Workshop 2: WIDA Online Screener

This workshop is designed for test administrators of the online WIDA Screener English language proficiency assessment in grades 1 through 12. During this workshop, participants will work collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of the administration of the assessment. This includes learning to administer the online test to the students. Particular attention will be given to the scoring of speaking and writing sections of the assessment with practice items and the speaking and writing scoring scales.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Date of Workshop: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM (registration and breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 AM)

Location: State of Michigan Library, Lake Michigan Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48915

Workshop 3: WIDA Paper Screener

This workshop is designed for test administrators of the paper-based WIDA Screener English language proficiency assessment in grades 1 through 12. During this workshop test participants will work collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of the underpinnings of the assessment, which includes test administration beginning with the entry task, and then continuing to be routed to Path A or to Path B. Particular attention will be given to the administration and scoring of speaking and writing sections of the assessment with practice items.

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

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Date of Workshop: Thursday, June 1, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (registration and breakfast 8:00 – 9:00 AM)

Location: State of Michigan Library, Lake Michigan Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48915

MI-Access Test Administration Manuals Available NOW

The MI-Access Test Administration Manuals (TAMs) are now available on the [MI-Access web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) under the **Current Assessment Administration** section. The manuals provide important information for District Test Coordinators, Building Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators who are responsible for both online and paper/pencil MI-Access administrations. They are divided into roles so that sections of the TAMs may be printed as needed. All staff involved in the MI-Access administration should read and know the policies, procedures, and guidelines documented in the TAMs that are relevant to their role in testing. This is important to ensure a valid, equitable, and trouble-free administration.

Effective this year, the TAMs are only available online in electronic format. There are two manuals:

1. 2017 Paper/Pencil Test Administrator Manual

This manual includes information and directions for the administration of the Functional Independence (FI), Supported Independence (SI), and Participation (P) paper/pencil assessments.

Important Reminder: all students taking the FI English Language Arts (ELA) assessment must take the Expressing Ideas test on paper. There is no online version of FI Expressing Ideas.

2. 2017 Online Administrator Manual

This manual includes information and directions for the administration of the Functional Independence (FI) online assessments and online entry of Supported Independence (SI) and Participation (P) responses.

Important Reminders:

- ♦ All students taking the FI English Language Arts (ELA) assessment must take the Expressing Ideas test on paper. There is no online version of FI Expressing Ideas.
- ♦ Supported Independence and Participation assessments are administered using paper materials but the responses for both the Primary and Shadow Administrator must be entered online.

M-STEP Test Administration Manual Available NOW

The M-STEP Test Administration Manual (TAM) is now available on the [M-STEP web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under the **What's New** and **Current Assessment Administration** sections. The manual provides important information for District Test Coordinators, Building Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators who are responsible for both online and paper/pencil M-STEP administrations. All staff involved in the M-STEP administration should read and know the policies, procedures, and guidelines documented in the TAM, to ensure a valid, equitable, and trouble-free M-STEP administration.

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

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

2017 Supports and Accommodations Table Now Available

The [2017 Supports and Accommodations Table](#) is now available on the following assessment web pages under the **Student Supports and Accommodations** Section:

[M-STEP](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep)

[MI-Access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access)

[MME](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme)

[WIDA](http://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida)

This table identifies in detail what Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations are allowable for each M-STEP and MI-Access assessment. Additional information for SAT, ACT WorkKeys, and WIDA assessments is also included.

There is a separate [Supports and Accommodations Table](#) specifically for the K-2 English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments. It is located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) under the **Current Assessment Administration** section.

Educators are again encouraged to make individual student decisions when selecting needed supports for students.

Video Tutorials, Online Sample Item Sets, and Online Tools Training

The Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) has developed online resources for students taking state assessments. The resources support the idea that students can learn about online assessment technology when teachers and other educators demonstrate the use of technology through (1) viewing the grade-specific student video tutorials to the entire

class, (2) teachers demonstrating to the class how to navigate through sample item sets, and (3) students individually interacting with the sample item sets on the device they'll be using on test day.

The video tutorials are intended for classroom viewing led by the teacher, and give an overview of what students can expect to see and do when taking the online state assessments. The student video tutorials are located in [eDirect](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com). Click on **All Applications** → **General Information** → **Test Tutorials**. The link to the tutorials will take you to the landing page where the tutorials can be selected based on the assessment the students are taking (see screen below).



The sample item sets are available for students in grades K-8, and 11. Sample Item Sets are a select group of test items that encompass various kinds of technology-enhanced items (drag and drop, hot spots, etc.). The sets provide students practice with: solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan's content standards, navigating the online test delivery system, and using the available online tools.

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

The sample item sets are embedded in the Online Tools Trainings (OTTs), found on the following web pages:

- [M-STEP](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep)
- [MI-Access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access)
- [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\)](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath)

or by clicking on this [link](https://wbte.drcdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/) (https://wbte.drcdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/). The OTTs and sample item sets are **ONLY accessible through the Chrome browser**. The screen below shows the landing page where the sample item sets and OTTs are accessed.



Feedback collected from previous test administrations indicates that students and teachers who utilized the video tutorials, and Sample Item Sets/OTTs felt more prepared for online testing. Students reported feeling confident about taking assessments online, and school administrators and teachers said they experienced fewer issues related to online testing than students and teachers who did not take advantage of this resource.

Every Student Succeeds Act and the 1% Assessment

The rules surrounding what is meant by "1%" for any state's alternate assessment are changing in the coming year. Based on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the following requirements will go into effect in the 2017–2018 school year:

- Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities* may be assessed with the general grade level assessment with or without accommodations, or use the state's alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. In Michigan, this is one of the of the MI-Access programs (MI-Access Functional Independence, MI-Access Supported Independence, or MI-Access Participation)
- The total number of students **assessed** using an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards (MI-Access) may not exceed 1% of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in a subject. This represents a change from the past, where the cap was based on proficient scores and their impact on accountability.
 - ♦ Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide justification and need to assess more than 1% of their assessed students using the alternate assessment.
 - ♦ The state must provide oversight and make public the information surrounding the participation rate.
 - ♦ LEAs that exceed the 1% participation rate will require oversight and monitoring activities.
 - ♦ State and LEAs may be required to submit improvement plans to work toward not exceeding the 1% cap.

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

Please Note: The Michigan Department of Education is currently working on establishing guidance and procedures around these new requirements, but this information is provided to help districts prepare for this change.

What do I do from here?

Please stay tuned for further information and requirements about these changes from various offices within the Michigan Department of Education. It is also important to ensure that IEP teams are following the guidelines for selecting assessments. An article appeared in the [February 16, 2017 Spotlight on Student Assessment](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_2-16-17_552137_7.pdf) (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_2-16-17_552137_7.pdf) that can help teams with this task. That edition, along with other previous versions of the Spotlight, can be found at this [link](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight).

*A student can be identified as having the most significant cognitive disabilities when the student requires **extensive, direct individualized instruction and substantial supports** to achieve measurable gains on the challenging State academic content standards for the grade in which the student is enrolled.

New WIDA Screener

Michigan will be transitioning to the new WIDA Screener at the start of the 2017–18 school year. This will replace the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT). The WIDA Screener will be utilized to screen students who may be eligible for English Learner (EL) services based on a ‘yes’ response to either of the required Home Language Survey (HLS) questions as a part of a district’s enrollment form.

The WIDA Screener will be available as an online assessment as well as a paper-based screener. MDE will offer training later this spring for educators to learn about this new assessment that is better aligned to Michigan’s career and college readiness standards. Please watch the Spotlight for additional information related to this transition as it comes available.

Issue Identified in Mass Assigning Student Supports and Accommodations in eDIRECT

An issue has been identified in eDIRECT that will impact users who are assigning mass-accommodations.

If a user assigns an accommodation that is not allowed for the assessment **AND** an accommodation that IS allowed, then no accommodation is assigned to that student or any student on the screen. For example, if a user assigned TTS with Passages to a 4th grade ELA test and any other accommodation on the screen for any student, no accommodations would be assigned to any students. **Please Note:** There is no error message indicating this has occurred.

This issue will be fixed and the mass-accommodation functionality will work appropriately beginning March 16, 2017. When this issue is fixed, users will receive an error message that identifies the accommodation that is not allowed, and will be prompted to remove it before it can be saved.

In the meantime, DRC recommends that users assigning accommodations before March 16, 2017, select and save one accommodation at a time.

For questions regarding this issue, please call the DRC Customer Service line at 1-877-560-8378 and select Option 2.



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.

Important Note: The Science Pilot Assessment is an optional assessment, and is **in addition** to the required M-STEP science assessment in grades 4, 7, and 11. The Pilot Assessment **does NOT replace** the M-STEP science assessment. Please make sure this information is communicated to all assessment staff in the pilot-participating school.

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 at this [link](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight).

DRC District and Building Coordinator Science Pilot Training

A District and Building Coordinator Training Webinar for the Spring 2017 Michigan Science Standards Pilot online assessment is happening Friday, March 3, 2017. District and Building Coordinators who attend will learn about:

- an overview of the online science pilot
- helpful online testing tips
- where to find important resources
- Q&A

If interested, click on the link below to register:

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>)

If you are unable to attend the training, a recording will be posted to eDIRECT by the end of the day on Friday, March 3, 2017.

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.

Student Data Questionnaire

A sample of the SAT student data questionnaire (SDQ) has been posted on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) to assist in your preadministration planning.

Managing Testing Schedules

We understand the challenge of organizing the school schedule for multiple assessments that may have many potential timing configurations. We have attempted to help you with scheduling by creating the [Assessment Timing Organizer](#) which is located on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme). This organizer includes common timings for SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9. It does not include any preadministration activities, only the time spent testing, including the scheduled breaks. The sample schedule assumes testing starts at 8:00 AM but you can include your school's time in the chart. There is also a place for you to include the room names or numbers to help with your organization (see sample below).

SAT	Day 1			Day 2			Organization
	Testing Duration	Sample Schedule	Your School's Schedule	Testing Duration	Sample Schedule	Your School's Schedule	Room Names/Numbers
Standard Time	4 hrs 7 min	8:00-12:07			Not applicable		
50% Extended Time (Math only)	4 hrs 58 min	8:00-12:58			Not applicable		
50% Extended Time (Essay only)	4 hrs 37 min	8:00-12:37			Not applicable		
100% Extended Time (Math only)	5 hrs 37 min	8:00-1:37			Not applicable		
100% Extended Time (Essay only)	5 hrs 2 min	8:00-1:02			Not applicable		
Standard Time with Extra Breaks	4 hrs 22 min	8:00-12:22			Not applicable		
Standard Time with Extended Breaks	4 hrs 15 min	8:00-12:15			Not applicable		
50% Extended Time (Reading)	3 hrs 24 min	8:00-11:24		2 hrs 50 min	8:00-10:50		
Reader (Automatic 50% ET)	3 hrs 24 min	8:00-11:24		2 hrs 50 min	8:00-10:50		
Scribe (Automatic 100% ET)	4 hrs 25 min	8:00-12:25		3 hrs 42 min	8:00-11:42		
100% Extended Time (Reading)	4 hrs 25 min	8:00-12:25		3 hrs 42 min	8:00-11:42		
100% Extended Time (Math & Essay)	2 hrs 45 min	8:00-10:45		3 hrs 42 min	8:00-11:42		
MP3 Audio	4 hrs 20 min	8:00-12:20		4 hrs 37 min	8:00-12:37		

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

Online Rosters

When you receive your email to access the online attendance roster, be sure to follow the directions in the email attachment when setting up your user profile. This includes selecting “Service Provider Supervisor” as your role. If you choose “Supervisor” you will receive tax information, which is only applicable to test center supervisors for national weekend administrations. If you accidentally choose the “Supervisor” role, you do not need to change anything and you will still have access to your roster. Simply disregard the tax information message. Remember that students will not be loaded into the online attendance roster until March 24, 2017.



PSAT 10 Student Guides

PSAT 10 Student Guides will arrive March 6-8, 2017, and you should receive enough for every 10th grade student. You may pass these out to students as soon as you receive them. The quantities shipped to schools are based on last year’s PSAT 8/9 testing cohort and not the number of students pre-identified for PSAT 10.

For some schools, particularly those that may not have tested 9th graders last year, the estimated quantity you receive may not be enough. Please contact the Michigan Educator Hotline if you need more student guides shipped to you.



Upcoming Webinars

If you cannot attend the webinar during the scheduled time, you can register and the presentation will be emailed to you afterwards.

- **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)

Important Dates

Friday March 3, 2017

March 3, 2017 from 10:00–11:00 AM:

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

Coming Next Week . . .

[Online and Paper/Pencil Testing](#)

March 8, 2017 from 2:30–4:00 PM:

- **MI-Access Spring 2017 Administration Webcast:** [MI Streamnet](http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3836/administering-the-2017-mi-access-assessments) (http://mistreamnet.org/videos/3836/administering-the-2017-mi-access-assessments) See the article on [page 1](#) for more information.

March 2017

[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)

Now – March 17, 2017:

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

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)

[Online Testing](#)

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](#)

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 7 – May 26, 2017:

- eDIRECT available for online test administrative tasks

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

April 2017

Online and Paper/Pencil Testing

April 27 and 28, 2017 from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM:

- **WIDA Workshop for School Leaders:** Leading Schools for Language Learner Achievement

[Register](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIDASpringWorkshops) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIDASpringWorkshops)

April 10 – May 26, 2017:

- **MI-Access** test window: All Grades

Online Testing

April 10 – May 5, 2017:

- **M-STEP Test Window:** Grades 5, 8, and 11

April 10 – May 26, 2017:

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment** test window: Grades K–2
- **Michigan Science Standards Pilot** test window: Grades 5, 8, and 11

Paper/Pencil Testing

April 11 – 28, 2017:

- **M-STEP** Test Window: Grades 5, 8, and 11
(Please see the Paper/Pencil Summative Testing Schedule for content specific dates.)

April 11, 2017 (Initial) and April 25, 2017 (Makeup):

- **SAT:** Grade 11

April 12, 2017 (Initial) and April 26, 2017 (Makeup):

- **ACT WorkKeys:** Grade 11

April 11–12, 2017 (Initial) and April 25–26, 2017 (Makeup):

- **PSAT 8/9:** Grade 9

April 11–12, 2017 (Initial) and April 25–26, 2017 (Makeup):

- **PSAT 10:** Grade 10

Recently Asked Questions . . .

Are we required to give kindergarten students a benchmark assessment?

The state does not require schools at this time to administer a benchmark assessment to kindergarten students. If you chose to administer one, you can administer MDE's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (K-2) in the spring or purchase an off-the-shelf test.

The [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\) web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) provides information on the MDE developed assessments including:

- [Important Dates – Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments](#) in the **Current Assessment Administration** section
- [Guidance on Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments](#) in the **General Information** section

Is there a fall benchmark assessment for kindergarten students?

There is no MDE benchmark assessment available for kindergarten students in the fall. The Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (K-2) is available in the spring if the school chooses to administer it. A kindergarten benchmark assessment is not required but is recommended.

Can students testing online do a content area over multiple days or sessions or does it need to be completed in one sitting?

Online test-takers who do not complete testing during a test session may continue testing at a later time using their test ticket. All online tests must be completed within the assessment and grade testing window.

When testing online, when can we give breaks?

Breaks are allowed during online testing. Schools and Test Administrators can determine when breaks should be taken, as long as the Pause feature in the testing software is used. Tests can be paused for up to 20 minutes; if the time limit expires, students will need to resume testing using their test tickets to log back in.

For M-STEP, during paper/pencil testing, students take breaks only when a stop sign appears in the test booklet, which is at the end of each test part. Appropriate times for taking breaks are noted in the Test Directions.

Please note: For any break, online or paper/pencil, the Test Administrator must collect all secure materials – scratch paper, graph paper, test tickets for online testers, and test booklets and answer documents for paper/pencil testers – and return them to students when they resume testing.

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