

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

August 23, 2018

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MDE's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments will be offered (online only) three times this year (fall, winter, and spring). In the fall of 2018, the assessment will be available for students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 from **September 10 – October 5, 2018**. For information on Michigan's benchmark assessments, read [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment: What It Is, What it Means, and What It Offers](#), which is located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) under the **Parent/Student Information** section.


To prepare your students for the online assessments, teachers should provide the opportunity for students to view the student tutorial and practice the Online Tools Training (OTT).

Online Resources

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has developed online resources for students taking state assessments at all grade levels. The resources support the idea that children can learn about online technology when teachers and other educators demonstrate the use of technology (classroom viewing of the student video tutorial, classroom viewing of the OTTs), followed by interacting with children while each student practices with technology (OTTS).

Student Tutorials

The Student Tutorials are student-narrated videos that introduce teachers and students to the online tests and tools contained in the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. These tutorials are designed to be administered in a group setting, such as the classroom, using a projector or other similar resource. The tutorials can be accessed on [eDIRECT](https://mi.dracedirect.com) (<https://mi.dracedirect.com>), by selecting **All Applications** → **General Information**, and clicking on the **Test Tutorials** tab. Click on the icon under the **Action**

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column. This takes you to the tutorial page. The student tutorials can also be accessed in INSIGHT. Open INSIGHT and on the bottom of the page select the [DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments Tutorials](#) link.

An important component of the Student Tutorials is that they provide explicit training on the pause/exit/end test functionality of the online testing engine. In addition, the tutorials explain how to access and use specific tools.

Online Sample Item Sets and OTTs

Another important resource teachers can access are Online Sample Item Sets for students in grades K–2. The Sample Item Sets are a select group of test items in ELA and mathematics that encompass various kinds of technology-enhanced items (matching, drag and drop, hot spots, etc.) and are embedded within the OTTs. The sets provide teachers and students practice in solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan’s content standards and provide practice navigating the online test delivery system. It is essential for students to practice the different item types, especially matching and drag and drop.

The OTTs can be accessed online—it must be in the Chrome browser—through the [edirect portal](https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/) (https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/). Click on the **Online Tools Training** link, located under K, 1, 2 Early Literacy and Mathematics on the lower-left side of the page. The OTTs can also be accessed in INSIGHT. Open INSIGHT and on the lower left side of the page, select the **Online Tools Training** link under K, 1, 2 Early Literacy and Mathematics.

Feedback collected from previous administrations indicates that students and teachers who utilized the OTTs and Sample Item Sets felt more prepared for online testing, students reported feeling confident about taking assessments online, and school

administrators and teachers stated they experienced fewer issues related to online testing than students and teachers who did not take advantage of this resource.

Recommended Sequence of Resources

The OEAA recommends that classroom teachers introduce online testing to their students by playing the Student Tutorial Video in class to show students how the online testing system and tools work. Once the Student Tutorial video is shown and discussed in the classroom, teachers then show the Online Tools Training (OTTs) to the entire class (doesn’t have to be on the same day). After students have watched the Student Tutorial Video projected by the teacher, followed by watching the teacher navigate through the OTTs using a projector or other classroom viewing resource, each student should be provided hands-on practice with the online Sample Item Sets contained within the OTTs, ideally using the device they will use during testing.

The OEAA welcomes your feedback on the online resources.

M-STEP Reports Webcast Presentation

The 2018 M-STEP Final Reports Informational webcast PowerPoint is currently available on the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep). The recorded webcast will be available next week. This webcast includes important information about the 2018 M-STEP reports and includes information about new features available in the Dynamic Reporting Site:

- Drill-Down feature updates
- Claim Performance Indicator Bars on student-level reports

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

M-STEP and MME Printed Parent Reports and Student Record Labels

M-STEP and MME Parent Reports and Student Record Labels are being processed and shipped to schools in the following order:

- schools receiving reports for students in grades 3-8 only
- schools receiving reports for students in grades 11-12 only
- all remaining schools

Report shipments will begin arriving in schools starting **Monday, August 27, 2018**. Shipments will continue to arrive on a rolling basis over the next two weeks. MI-Access reports will be shipped after the M-STEP and MME shipments are completed.

Printed Parent Reports should be distributed to parents when they arrive in schools. Student Record Labels can be used to place summary proficiency information in student records.

Please inventory your reports when they arrive. If you have any questions, please contact the Call Center.

Michigan Assessment System Overview: Webinar Materials Available

The Michigan Department of Education Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (MDE-OEAA) hosted an informational webinar on August 16, 2018 that provided an overview of Michigan's state assessment system for the 2018-19 school year.

The webinar offered:

- background on Michigan priorities for its state assessment system
- an overview of Michigan's system of state summative assessments
- explanation of policies and practices related to state-reimbursements for optional early literacy and benchmark assessments
- information about how Michigan supports formative assessment

Materials from that webinar available now on the [OEAA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa) include:

- Michigan's State Assessment System at a Glance (one-page handout)
- Michigan's 2018-19 State Assessment System Presentation (PowerPoint slides)

Materials coming soon include:

- State Assessment Webinar (to be posted by 8/24)
- Webinar Questions and Answers (coming soon)

Address questions about the webinar to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov.

Additional information on reimbursements for benchmark and early literacy assessments provided through section 104d of the FY 2018 State School Aid Act is available on the [Assessment Reimbursement Grant page](#), which can be accessed through the **Academic Standards** → **Early Literacy** tabs on the left navigation menu of the [MDE website](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) (www.michigan.gov/mde).

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College Board 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: 866-870-3127 (select Option 1)
- email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

PSAT 8/9 for Grade 8

Starting in Spring 2019, the PSAT 8/9 for grade 8 will replace the M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments for accountability. Schools will still administer the M-STEP social studies and field test science assessments. For more information on PSAT 8/9 for grade 8, visit the [College Board Michigan website](http://www.collegeboard.org/michigan) (www.collegeboard.org/michigan) or the [MDE PSAT web page](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat). The College Board and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) are currently working through planning the details of this spring's testing. Be sure to read the Spotlight for updates.

Get Ready for Spring 2019 – Implementation Workshops

Implementation workshops are free and provide information about the Michigan-provided SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for grades 8 and 9 administrations in the spring of 2019. The workshop is important for building administrators and building test coordinators. Learn about the latest enhancements and changes for the spring administration, preparing for and administering the College Board exams, spring implementation timelines, and about our professional development offerings to prepare you for Spring 2019. The workshops will be held throughout the state later this fall. Dates and locations will be available in the Spotlight soon.

Fall and Spring Assessments

Schools do **NOT** need to order materials for the Michigan-provided SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for grades 8 and 9 in Spring 2019 through the College Board's test ordering system. If you elect to participate in fall testing of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9, materials should be ordered directly through College Board. Fall testing of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9 is not provided by the Michigan Department of Education.

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Spring 2018 Score Reports Delivery and Returned Shipments

School-level and student-level paper reports were scheduled for delivery **August 6 - 10, 2018** to the mailing address of the WorkKeys Test Coordinator listed in the [Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](#) (www.michigan.gov/eem) as of July 5, 2018.

Please refer to the [June 21, 2018 Spotlight Newsletter](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for more information about:

- what is included in the reports shipment
- National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRCs)
- MyWorkKeys.com

If you have not received your reports yet, please ensure the mailing information in the EEM system is current. If it is out of date, contact your district's authorized EEM user to update the EEM system as soon as possible. If you are not sure who the authorized EEM user is, use the District and School Contact page on the [OEAA Secure Site](#) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) to retrieve the name and contact information for your district.

Instructions for using the District and School Contacts page are available on the [Secure Site Training web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) under the **Miscellaneous**

section. Nonpublic schools should call 517-335-0543 or email nonpublicschools@michigan.gov with updates to the EEM.

ACT began re-shipping returned package(s) the week of **August 20, 2018**. If your school:

- was closed for the summer, the package(s) will be shipped to the WorkKeys Test Coordinator at the mailing address listed in the EEM
- is permanently closed, the package(s) will be shipped to the District Assessment Coordinator at the mailing address listed in the EEM

If the district is also closed, reports will be shipped to the Michigan Department of Education.

Contacting ACT

If you have questions, you may:

1. contact ACT via the [Contact Us web page](#) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html)
2. call ACT at 800-553-6244
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM ET
 - standard time: ext. 2800
 - accommodations: ext. 1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Friday, August 24, 2018:

- Off-site Test Administration Request **DEADLINE** for Fall 2018 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

August 2018

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 4, 2018:

- Pre-Identification of Students for the Fall 2018 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

Now – October 5, 2018:

- Create/manage online test sessions in eDIRECT for the Fall 2018 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

September 2018

Early Literacy and Mathematics

September 10 – October 5, 2018.

- Fall 2018 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmarks Assessments** testing window

Contacts

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues:

Assessment and Accountability Call Center

877-560-8378 (select appropriate option)

Options	Topics
1	use to report cheating and unethical behavior by a district/school in regards to state assessments
2	for support of Test Management System (TSM), eDIRECT, and INSIGHT for the online M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)
3	for support of the OEAA Secure Site, administration and policy questions related to M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2), and accountability reporting
4	for questions about the College Entrance and Workskills assessments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility and OEAA Secure Site Support 2. SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 – College Board 3. WorkKeys – ACT
5	for questions about the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, W-APT and WIDA Screener (both online and paper/pencil), and support for WIDA AMS and INSIGHT
6	for all other questions

Email

For assessment questions:

mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

For accountability questions:

MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov



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