

M-STEP Supports and Accommodations

Q: Is there a group size limit for the number of students who can have the Spanish oral translation in math?

A: Yes, there is a limit of five. If you have more than five, submit a request to our office (mde-oeaa@michigan.gov). In the request, state that you need a larger group size for an oral translation, indicate the number of students, the reason, and the grade levels. You do not need to submit UICs.

Q: When would text-to-speech require one-on-one testing?

A: The Text-To-Speech option can be individually turned on for any number of students, as long as each student has their own headphones. For example, if you have 20 students, all in the same grade level with TTS as their support option, they could be tested at the same time in the same computer lab, providing they all are using headphones. However, if students are not using headphones, one-on-one testing will be required.

Note: As it is a designated support, the student should have control over the volume and speed of the translation.

Q: Will video sign language of test contents be available for M-STEP science and social studies?

A: We do not have video sign language available for science and social studies this year. Although accommodated students would need some additional support for reading, there isn't audio-only content (or listening questions) in either science or social studies. If you have a student who requires ASL or Signed Exact English paired with what's printed on the page, the appropriate use of this support is covered in the [Supports and Accommodations Guidance Document](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Accommodations_Manual.final_480016_7.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Accommodations_Manual.final_480016_7.pdf). For other student needs, contact mde-oeaa@michigan.gov, and we can provide you with clarity on your specific situation.

Q: How big are small group sizes if no other accommodations are being provided?

A: General group size for M-STEP and MI-Access is not defined and is a general administration issue, with the decision to be made at the local level. The recommendation for test administrators is to be in a position to monitor efficiently and effectively in a testing environment. For example, in a class of 50 students, one monitor may or may not be sufficient, depending on the students and the monitor.

The small group designation of five or less in MI-Access was a guideline set for students with significant cognitive impairments. These students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) calling for a small group accommodation. It is important that these students' access to the assessment not be hindered by their disability.

Q: If a student has a Read-Aloud designated support or accommodation for M-STEP, will they need to take the test using the paper/pencil version?

A: In M-STEP, if the Read-Aloud designated support or accommodation can be accomplished through Text-to-Speech (one of the 2 options: Text-to-Speech or Text-to-Speech Passage), the test can be administered online. If the nature of the Read-Aloud accommodation has to do with the voice itself, a human reader can be used for the math and ELA online M-STEP IF the Read-Aloud Guidelines are used. However, this will also require a one-on-one administration for the student. Social studies and science will have to be paper/pencil using the reader script.

Q: If a school administers M-STEP online, can a student still request a reader and take the test via paper/pencil, while the others are fine with Text-To-Speech?

A: Yes. You can still order paper/pencil versions of the M-STEP for specific students who have specific needs.

MI-Access Supports and Accommodations

Q: Is there an accommodations table available?

A: Yes. All documents are available at this time, including the updated scribing guidelines, the manual, etc. Please refer to the [Supports and Accommodations Guidance Document](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Accommodations_Guidance_Document) (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Accommodations_Manual.final_480016_7.pdf).

Q: Can students taking MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) use an approved calculator or must they use the embedded calculator?

A: Students may use the embedded calculator, the calculator used for regular instruction, or no calculator at all. While the math tests are not calculator-dependent, students may use calculators they typically use during instruction. For more information, please refer to the Supports & Accommodations Guidance Document for M-STEP information.

Q: Is it true that only FI is a student-facing online test?

A: Mainly yes, but not entirely.

- Functional Independence (FI) can be online or paper/pencil, depending on what your school has designated, or paper/pencil option at the student level. The exception is the ELA: Expressing Ideas assessment, which is a paper version **exclusively**. If a student is taking ELA, this paper/pencil assessment must also be administered regardless how the student is being tested (online or paper).
- Supported Independence (SI) and Participation (P) administration of the assessment is paper/pencil only and still uses selected response through picture cards or instructional objects or activity-based observation items as has been done in the past. The answer document is **exclusively** online. See instructions on the webpage for accessing and entering scores in the online answer document.

Q: Is Read-Aloud the same as Text-to-Speech?

A: Yes and no. Read-Aloud can be accomplished in a couple of ways. It can be accomplished through the online option of Text-to-Speech and it can be accomplished through a human reader. The

student's need will dictate the most effective method. If the student needs the content read to them, often text-to-speech is fine. If the student issue is related to the voice itself, and a human reader is designated, then use a human reader. Remember to check the inside cover of the test booklet for the "Do Not Read Aloud" table in the paper version for detailed instructions. There is no difference in the content that ends up being read to students when either using the "Do Not Read Aloud" tables with a human reader or text to speech.

Q: Are manipulatives allowable as an accommodation for M-STEP as well as for MI-Access?

A: Yes, as an accommodation. For M-STEP, this would be for a student whose IEP or Section 504 plan calls for it. For MI-Access, we encourage using and/or adapting objects that are typically used during instructional routines to engage the student. This is also true for the Student Picture Cards and objects used during observational scoring.

Q: Is there MI-Access for 9th and 10th graders?

A: No, there is not. There is for grade 11, but not for grades 9 and 10. Even if the student's IEP indicates that they will be taking alternate assessments, there is no alternate assessment offered in grades 9 and 10.

PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT Supports and Accommodations

Q: Does an accommodation request need to be made for the PSAT 8/9?

A: Yes. This is true for all state-sponsored assessments—PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT—being administered this spring. Accommodations for these assessments must be made online using the Online SSD online system.

Q: Do we need to ask for the accommodation for the use of a four-function calculator?

A: For the PSAT and SAT, if it's outside the scope of the calculator section, yes. An application needs to be made to the College Board for any accommodation.

Q: Do students who have a four-function calculator have to test separately from those who do not?

A: For SAT or PSAT, a student may use the four-function calculator in the standard testing room providing there are no other accommodations that would require a separate room. The rules on calculator use are also different for M-STEP and MI-Access. Please refer to the Supports and Accommodations Table specific to the test you are giving.

Q: We would like clarification on what a four-function calculator really is. Can it have some other functions such as percent keys, square root keys?

A: We can answer for MI-Access, but for SAT the four-function calculator request would need to go to the College Board (and be as specific as you can concerning the calculator).

Q: Do we need to order tests or will they just come like they did with the ACT?

A: For all of our assessments there is a pre-ID initial order material window. That window is not open at this time for SAT. Keep an eye on the Spotlight articles. Please send any questions concerning ordering tests and/or materials to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov. All ordering will be done through the MDE Secure Site.

Q: Will state-allowed accommodations be allowed for PSAT 8/9?

A: Yes, the application process will be available for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10 and SAT. Both approved College Board accommodations and state-allowed, non-college reportable accommodations are also available.

Q: How do I ensure that the same accommodations for a student on the PSAT will carry over to the SAT in April?

A: If a student was approved for state-allowed accommodation in grade 8, those accommodations will not carry over for high school. Accommodations will need to be requested in the College Board SSD Online System for grade 9. If the student is connected to you, check the SSD online system for current listed accommodations. If the listed

accommodations are correct, no further action will be required. Please be sure to put in a new accommodations request if your student's needs change from year to year.

Q: A 10th grader was approved for 50% more time for reading only; does that mean they can't have 50% on the math and writing parts?

A: Students approved for extended time for reading and English Learner students testing with 50% extended time will receive extended time for the entire test.

Q: If a blind student is not using a closed-captioned TV at school, but uses one for homework at home, can they use one for the SAT?

A: This is a specific accommodation request that would need to be made to the College Board.

Q: How do we apply for state-allowable accommodations for SAT/PSAT? If the student uses state-allowable accommodations on PSAT10 2018, will that affect applications for accommodations for 2019 SAT?

A: Yes, but you can always reapply. If the student's needs have changed from 2018 applications to 2019, reapply for the current needs in 2019.

Q: Was February 19, 2019 the deadline to apply for accommodations?

A: Yes, all accommodation requests are through the SSD site and deadlines are as listed. February 19, 2019 was the deadline to apply for all accommodations requests.

Q: Will we receive notification of approved accommodations by the College Board before February 19, 2019, to allow us to reapply for students who were denied on initial requests?

A: The February 19, 2019 deadline was intended to allow time for Districts and College Board to work back and forth, so if there's an initial denial, issues can be worked out with more in-depth information and time for reapplication. Our recommendation is to start the process as early as possible.