



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents,
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Division off Educator, Student, and School Support

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Delsa D. Chapman'.

SUBJECT: 2021-22 Benchmark Assessments Reporting and Funding Application

As passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, [Section 104a of Public Act 48 of 2021 \(page 95\)](#) requires districts to administer one or more benchmark assessment(s) within the first nine weeks of school and again before the last day of school for the 2021-22 academic year. Intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local educational agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), must administer benchmark assessments to students in grades K-8 for the purpose of measuring student proficiency in reading and mathematics.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have provided a form through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS) to assist LEAs with meeting requirements in this law. This form will survey districts on assessments used, help with reporting requirements, and provide an avenue to apply for funding for eligible MDE-approved assessments (iReady, STAR, and NWEA). Districts that do not have students in grades K-8 do not need to fill out the form.

The 2021-22 benchmark assessments reporting and funding application is available here: [Benchmark Assessments Reporting and Funding Application form](#) or from the [MDE Benchmark Assessments](#) web page under the What's New section. The deadline for completing the form is **Friday, December 10, 2021**.

Additionally, this law requires districts to report benchmark assessment data and provide student data to families within 30 days after administering assessments. Districts reporting on benchmark assessments using one of [MDE-approved providers](#) must submit data to the Michigan Data Hub. Districts administering local benchmark assessments and assessments with progress monitoring tools will complete other

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Page 2
November 12, 2021

reports in the [GEMS/MARS form](#). All data reporting must be submitted to MDE no later than **Friday, December 10, 2021**.

To learn more information about requirements for benchmark assessments, please review the [Benchmark Assessment Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions document](#) or visit the [MDE Benchmark Assessments web page](#). For questions related to benchmark assessments, please contact MDE's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors