

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of March 11, 2021

- [Assessment Calendars Web Page](#)
- [Correction to the 2021 Summative Testing Schedule](#)
- [Focus on Assessment Literacy](#)
 - » [What Is The Purpose of Interim/Benchmark Assessments?](#)

Statewide Assessment Waiver Request Update

Please refer to this Michigan Department of Education (MDE) [press release](#) that details recent communication from the U.S. Department of Education (USED). This communication does not provide for any change to MDE plans for testing at this time. It simply states that USED is open to receiving waiver requests for accountability and assessment from states. MDE is still waiting for a response to our waiver request that was submitted in January. Until USED responds directly to Michigan's request, schools/districts are to continue to administer WIDA assessments and prepare for other spring testing. Remember, MDE would need flexibility from both federal and state requirements to change testing plans.

Assessment Calendars Web Page

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has created a new [Assessment Calendar web page](#) where all forms of the assessment calendars across the different assessments can be accessed.

Strategic Plan

Academic Standards

Career and Technical Education

Early Learners and Care

Educator Services

Family Engagement

Flexible Learning Options

School Performance & Supports

Special Education


State Aid & School Finance

Student Assessment


Assessment Calendars

Assessment Integrity and Security


Assessment Calendars




The Assessment Calendars page pulls together the different formats available of important dates, related to state assessments, that have been created by OEAA. The formats available are excel, pdf, and google calendars. The dates are the same across each format, but some do have more detail than others. The high school assessments, PSAT for grades 9 and 10, and the MME (SAT with Essay, WorkKeys, and M-STEP) do have different combinations of the assessments, which can be helpful based on an assessment coordinator's responsibilities.



3-Year OEAA Calendar



Summative Testing Schedule



Excel File Includes all Assessments

Grade Levels	Important Dates (pdf)	Google Calendar Link	Date Last Revised
K-12	N/A	All Assessments	02/09/2021
K-2	ELMBA pdf	Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark (K-2)	02/09/2021

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The calendars included are the 3-Year OEAA Calendar (to be updated soon), the Summative Testing Schedule, an Excel spreadsheet, and the List of Important Dates .pdf versions for each of the assessments. The Assessment Calendars page can be found on the left navigation menu under [Student Assessment](#) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa).

Grade Levels	Important Dates (pdf)	Google Calendar Link	Date Last Revised
K-12	N/A	All Assessments	02/09/2021
K-2	ELMBA pdf	Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark (K-2)	02/09/2021
3-8, 11	MI-Access pdf	MI-Access	02/19/2021
11	MME (SAT, WorkKeys, M-STEP) pdf	MME Coming Soon	02/21/2021
3-7, 11	M-STEP pdf	M-STEP	02/19/2021
8	PSAT Grade 8 pdf	PSAT - Grade 8	02/11/2021
9, 10	PSAT Grades 9 and 10 pdf	PSAT - Grades 9 and 10	12/22/2020
11, 9, 10	SAT, PSAT Grades 9 and 10 pdf	SAT and PSAT for Grades 9 and 10	12/22/2020
K-12	WIDA pdf	WIDA for English Learners	01/20/2021
11	WorkKeys pdf	WorkKeys	12/20/2020

New this year: OEAA has added Google calendars for each of the assessments. The new Google calendar allows different views of the important dates, such as weekly, monthly, or by agenda. By selecting the print icon, the user can print these calendars. Users can also use the calendar list filter feature to filter which calendars to display. The calendars also contain links to resources within some of the date entries for the listed task.

WIDA Google Calendar

Includes, WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate Access for ELLs, and WIDA Screeners

WIDA

Today ◀ ▶ **March 2021** ▼

Print icon Calendar list filter

Print Week Month Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
28	Mar 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;">WIDA Screener- EL Screener Cycle open in OEAA Secure Site for score entry <li style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;">WIDA Screener- K W-APT and WIDA Screener Cycle II open <li style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;">WIDA ACCESS- Off site Test Administration Request Window Opens in OEAA Secure Site <li style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;">WIDA ACCESS- Pre-identification of students in OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 pm 				

WIDA Alternate Access
 WIDA Screener
 WIDA Access

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

Correction to the 2021 Summative Testing Schedule

The 2021 Summative Testing Schedule has been updated to show the correct makeup testing day for the SAT with Essay. The SAT with Essay Primary Test Day is April 13, 2021, and the SAT with Essay Makeup Test Day is April 27, 2021.

The SAT makeup date is correct in other date-related documents, such as the List of Important Dates. The 2021 Summative Testing Schedule can be found by selecting [Assessment Calendars](#) on the left navigation menu under **Student Assessment** (www.michigan.gov/oeaa) and then selecting [Summative Testing Schedule](#).

What Is The Purpose of Interim/Benchmark Assessments?

Interim/benchmark assessments fall between formative and summative assessments on the formative/summative continuum and are an essential component of a balanced assessment system. They are administered to students periodically throughout the school year to measure progress towards identified learning objectives and serve one of three purposes:

- **Instructional** (to monitor student achievement)
- **Predictive** (to predict future performance on another, aligned assessment)
- **Evaluative** (to provide information useful for program evaluation)

The selection of an interim/benchmark assessment and the determination of how often it will be administered should be driven by what information is needed to answer a specific question about student learning. For example, in a predictive capacity, an interim/benchmark assessment may provide evidence that a group of students is on track to perform successfully on a summative assessment. In an evaluative context, interim/benchmark assessments may be used to determine whether one pedagogical approach is more effective for teaching content than another. It is critically important to define first what is expected to be learned from the assessment results and then what decisions the results will inform.

Marianne Perie and other scholars suggest that educators ask these questions before choosing or designing an interim/benchmark assessment:

1. What do we want to learn from this assessment?
2. Who will use the information gathered from this assessment?
3. What action steps will be taken as a result of this assessment?
4. What professional development or support structures should be in place to ensure the action steps are taken appropriately?

The recent Michigan Return to Learn legislation (Public Act 149 sec. 104.8) requires districts to choose an interim/benchmark assessment and to administer the assessment to students at least twice in a school year. It is critical for educators to ask these questions about interim/benchmark assessments, as the answers will inform the type of interim/benchmark assessment chosen, the frequency in which it will be administered, and how the results will be used.

Resources:

[Interim Assessment: What are some key characteristics?](#) (2019, January). In *Assessment Learning Network* Retrieved April 23, 2019

[MDE Benchmark Assessment web page](#) contains resources related to interim/benchmark assessments and the Return to Learn legislation

Perie, M., Marion, S., & Gong, B. (2009). [Moving Toward a Comprehensive Assessment System: A Framework for Considering Interim Assessments](#). *Educational Measurement: Issues and Practice*, 28(3), 5-13

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Put into Practice:

1. Obtain a copy of your district's Return to Learn Plan and review with these questions in mind:

- Which interim/benchmark assessment(s) was chosen by your district?
- How many times will the assessment(s) be administered this school year?

2. Analyze the plan by asking:

- What will the resulting data be used to determine?
- Will the data be used to inform instructional, predictive, or evaluative decisions?
- How will the data and the resulting decisions be communicated to students, parents, and other community stakeholders?

CB College Board Corner

Information on SAT®, PSAT™ 8/9, and PSAT™ 10 provided by the College Board

Questions about Spring SAT, PSAT 8/9, or PSAT 10?

- Call the Michigan Educator Hotline: 866-870-3127 (select Option 1)
- Email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

WHAT'S NEW

Nonstandard Administration Report (NAR)

The Nonstandard Administration Report (NAR) will be available for generation from SSD Online next week, to assist you in planning for students who will be testing with accommodations. English learners with time and one-half will also be listed on the NAR.

Shipments

Preadministration materials and secure testing materials will arrive the week of **March 22, 2021**. All materials will be addressed to the test coordinator.

Note: Coordinators will receive numerous boxes; also, standard and accommodated materials will arrive separately. For schools on spring break that week, shipments will be delivered the week of **March 29, 2021**.

College Board ships accommodated materials for all students in the pending and approved status listings in SSD Online for Michigan's contracted grade levels. Therefore, you will likely receive extra SAT materials for students you do not plan to test. Likewise, you may get materials for a student who has not been approved to use those materials, but once the

approval is completed, the school will have that student's materials available. The SSD coordinator must ensure that a student has been approved for accommodations before the accommodations are provided; otherwise, the student's score will be invalidated.

Additional Material Order Window

If after your shipments for the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT with Essay are received and inventoried, you find you need additional standard test books, answer sheets, or Coordinator Manuals, use the Additional Material Order Window in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site to request these materials. These are the only materials available to request, and the window to request additional materials is **March 23 – April 6, 2021**.

- Orders for additional materials placed in the OEAA Secure Site will be delivered approximately 3-5 business days after the order is placed.
- Schools on spring break the week of April 5, 2021, are advised to place their orders no later than **2:00 p.m. ET on March 29, 2021**, in order to receive the additional materials by April 2.
- Orders placed on April 6, 2021 will likely arrive on April 12 – therefore, place your orders as soon as possible.
- **Note:** Only the SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 Coordinator Manuals can be requested, not the SAT Testing Manual or the SAT Accommodated Testing Manual. These testing manuals can

(Continued on next page)

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either be printed from the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme) or requested through the Michigan Educator Hotline (866-870-3127).

Action Needed for Pre-Recorded Audio (MP3) Accommodation

SSD coordinators will receive an email the week of March 15, 2021 with helpful information on how to prepare for administering the pre-recorded audio (MP3) accommodation to approved students taking the SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9, as well as an access code to provide to proctors administering this accommodation. An application must be installed on all devices being used to administer the tests in order to download the audio

files on test day. Install and test the device prior to test day to ensure you are prepared. If you completed this activity for Fall 2020 testing, the application does not need to be installed again. Re-test any devices you plan to use to ensure the application still works.

REMINDERS

Refer to the [March 4 edition of Spotlight](#) for information about planning for a preadministration session, as well as a list of the optional and required fields students must bubble-in on their answer sheets.

Refer to the [February 25 edition of Spotlight](#) for information about staff training requirements and accessing the required online trainings.

ACT WorkKeys

Reminders

ACT WorkKeys Training Webinars

On March 9, 2021, ACT hosted a training webinar that provided an overview of how to administer the WorkKeys assessments. A recording of the **Michigan ACT WorkKeys Paper Test Administration Training** webinar is available [online](#). You will need to register to access the recording, if you were not already registered for the webinar.

This recording is also posted on the [ACT state testing website](#) (act.org/stateanddistrict/michigan) on the **WorkKeys on Paper** page.

For all upcoming events and deadlines, be sure to reference the following documents:

- [ACT WorkKeys Schedule of Events](#), posted on the **WorkKeys on Paper** page
- [MME and High School PSAT List of Important Dates](#), found on the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme) under **General Information**

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 between 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - standard time: ext. 2800
 - accommodations: ext. 1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

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

Important Dates

March 2021

WIDA

Now – April 9, 2021

- **WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** Off-site Test Administration Request window in OEAA Secure Site
- **WIDA ACCESS for ELLs** Pre-identification of students in OEAA Secure Site window
- **WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** testing window (extended for Spring 2021)

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – June 29, 2021

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)** Pre-identification of students in OEAA Secure Site window

ACT WorkKeys

Week of March 22, 2021:

- Receive **ACT WorkKeys** test materials this week (if chosen during Manage Participation)

Week of March 29, 2021

- Receive **ACT WorkKeys** test materials this week (if chosen during Manage Participation)

April 2021

M-STEP

April 12 – May 7, 2021

- **M-STEP** Online testing window for grades 5, 8, and 11

April 26 – May 21, 2021

- **M-STEP** Online testing window for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7

MI-Access

April 12 – May 28, 2021

- **MI-Access** Online testing window for all grades

Early Literacy and Mathematics

April 12 – June 30, 2021

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)** Online testing window

Contacts

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues:

Assessment and Accountability Call Center

877-560-8378 (select appropriate option)

Options	Topics
1	to report cheating and unethical behavior by a district/school in regards to state assessments
2	for support of Central Office Services (COS), DRC INSIGHT Portal, 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 for <u>all</u> state assessments, 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, MDE policies, 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, and support for WIDAAMS, INSIGHT, and Central Office Services (COS)
8	for all other questions

Email

For assessment questions:

mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

For accountability questions:

mde-accountability@michigan.gov

For assistance with WIDA Screener, W-APT, and the WIDA Secure Portal questions:

(for questions not covered in options 3 and 5 in the table above)

WIDA Client Services

866-276-7735

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