

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

March 19, 2020

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A COVID 19 UPDATE from OEAA's Director

I want to provide an update on where the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) currently stands in regards to student assessment and the current COVID-19 situation. This is an unprecedented time in our state, especially now that Governor Whitmer has ordered all schools closed until April 6, 2020. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) wants to emphasize that student, staff, and community health and safety is the top priority during this time.

Please know that we are actively communicating with each of our assessment vendors to plan for a variety of scenarios that could occur during this time. Certainly, one of these scenarios has already played out, with the statewide closure of schools for this extended period.

At this time, Michigan's school-day administrations of the SAT and WorkKeys assessments, which are part of the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), are not included in the announcements from College Board and ACT about their rescheduled Saturday administrations. We are working with College Board, ACT, and other vendors on a best course of action for the components of the MME. This includes planning for Michigan's school-day administrations of the SAT and PSAT in grades 8, 9, and 10.

As you may have seen, MDE recently sent a [memo](#) to the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, requesting a "national" waiver from the required administration of state assessments. We are eagerly awaiting a response to that request.

We understand that this is a challenging time, and we here at OEAA are working to adapt to the changes as well. While the Spotlight may be much abridged at this point, we will continue to communicate through it, as well as through direct communications around assessment and accountability matters.

At this time, the health and safety of the OEAA staff and their families are being prioritized as well, and many OEAA staff are telecommuting. This will not limit anyone's ability to provide assistance to the education community. If you have questions, please feel free to contact MDE Assessment and Accountability staff at mde-oeaa@michigan.gov or 877-560-8378.

Andy Middlestead
Director, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability

Test Materials Handling During School Closure

The closing of Michigan's K-12 buildings for three weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic will impact the delivery of test materials. The most important priorities continue to be the health and safety of students, staff, and families. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is working with our assessment vendors to develop contingency plans for M-STEP, SAT, PSAT, ACT WorkKeys, WIDA, and MI-Access.

We continue to gather and share additional information as it becomes available. At this time, we can provide the following guidance regarding how to handle test materials in your buildings.

WIDA: Testing is currently suspended.

- Store any materials currently in your building securely in a central locked location.
- The OEAA is continuing to work with WIDA on options for extending the material return window.
- MDE has submitted an assessment waiver request to USED (see the [COVID-19 Update on page 1](#)) which includes WIDA ACCESS testing. Pending the approval of the waiver, additional information will be provided through Spotlight as it becomes known.

ACT WorkKeys: Test materials started to arrive in schools last week (the week of March 9, 2020).

- Store any materials currently in your building securely in a central locked location.
- ACT has placed a hold on future shipments. For shipments that are already in transit, FedEx has been instructed to return any undeliverable items to ACT.
- **Please note:** Schools may have received an automated email from ACT related to testing and test materials in North Carolina. This email does not apply to Michigan and should be ignored.

SAT, PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10: Shipments of test materials were scheduled to begin the week of March 23, 2020.

- College Board will not ship materials at this time.
- **Please note:** Schools may get an automated email that materials are being shipped. This email can be ignored.

M-STEP and MI-Access: Shipments of test materials were scheduled to begin the week of March 30, 2020.

- These materials will not ship at this time.

OEAA staff are here to help and will communicate with schools as soon as we have any further information regarding statewide assessments. Watch the Spotlight for the most current information available.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through this situation.

Michigan School Grades Reports Publicly Available Next Week

Next week, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will make 2018-19 Michigan School Grades reports publicly available on [MI School Data](#) (www.mischooldata.org). The Michigan School Grades System is a NEW accountability system that was signed into law in late 2018. In this system, schools receive up to five letter grades and three ranking labels based on various school performance components. Schools do not receive an overall letter grade.

Results are tentatively scheduled to be publicly available **Monday, March 23, 2020**. At that time, the embargo on sharing these results will be lifted.

We encourage you to review the informational guides and other helpful resources available for the [Michigan School Grades System](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-schoolgrades).

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

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 WIDA AMS, 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