

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

April 16, 2020

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An Update From OEAA About Student Assessment



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An Update From OEAA About Student Assessment

Section IV of Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-35](#), which suspended in-person K-12 instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, addresses state assessments. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is finalizing guidance based on this Executive Order.

Here is what we know about student assessments at this time:

- There will be no M-STEP or MI-Access assessments this spring.
- There will not be an administration of the ACT WorkKeys this spring.
- Completed WIDA assessments will be scored. Any WIDA assessments that were not completed do not need to be finished. Additional guidance on the impact this might have on English learner students will be coming. Refer to the article in the [April 9 Spotlight](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for information on WIDA materials return.
- SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 will not be administered this spring. We are working to provide a fall administration of these tests. At this time, we do not have any additional information around days or times, or any other details about these administrations. We are working with the College Board to sort this out and will let people know as soon as we have details.

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) wants to emphasize that the health and safety of students, staff, and the community is top priority during this time. All OEAA staff are now working from home and are available if questions arise. You can send inquiries to the following email (this is our preference) or call the telephone number. We will respond as quickly as possible.

- **email:** mde-oeaa@michigan.gov
- **phone:** 877-560-8378

Please be safe during this trying time. We will provide further updates and details as soon as we can.

Key:  Reminder (previously run article)

For Assessment and Accountability Questions:

Assessment email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Accountability email: mde-accountability@michigan.gov

Call Center: 877-560-8378

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Using the Formative Assessment Process to Enhance Student Learning in an Online Environment Webinar

Michigan educators and students are being challenged to continue teaching and learning in new ways. This is why the Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) and Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) have teamed up to present a live webinar with teachers from the Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy (MGLVA). Presenters will share their experiences and the strategies they use to engage students and enhance learning through the effective use of the formative assessment process while teaching in an online environment.

Webinar details

The live webinar, [Using the formative assessment process to enhance student learning in an online environment: Getting started](https://bit.ly/FAP-Getting-Started-Online) (https://bit.ly/FAP-Getting-Started-Online), will take place **April 23, 2020** from **1:00 –2:15 p.m.** It will feature presenters who will tap their own experiences as online teachers and FAME Coaches.

Presenters will share the instructional processes and technology tools they use to collect evidence of student understanding, and they will describe how the evidence can be used to adjust learning and teaching tactics. Participants will learn the importance of choosing learning targets and how to adapt the tools in the formative assessment process to fit their students' current needs.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. **Identify the mindset needed to engage students** using the formative assessment process in an online environment (Hint: some courage, the ability to “try”)
2. **Provide a tool for planning instruction**, emphasizing learning targets and feedback gathering that focuses on evidence of student understanding
3. **Suggest a set of technology tools** aligned to FAME components and elements

4. **Promote a shared understanding about formative assessment** practices and processes

The webinar is the first in a series of events designed to support Michigan educators with the assessment challenges presented by online and remote learning. It is offered **at no cost** to educators.

[Register today](https://bit.ly/FAP-Getting-Started-Online) (https://bit.ly/FAP-Getting-Started-Online)

Limited seats available for the live webinar, so register early. Registrants who are not able to join the live webinar will receive a link to the recorded webinar and any associated resources. All registrants will receive event reminders and notices of future webinars and available resources. Contact Kim Young at youngk1@michigan.gov with questions.

FAME Project Accepting New Coach Applications Deadline Extended to May 15



The Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) project is entering its 13th year and is now seeking interested educators who would like to lead a local learning team of teachers to explore, implement, and reflect on the formative assessment process in their classrooms. FAME coaches are not expected to be the local expert on the formative assessment process—rather FAME coaches are learners along with their learning team.

More information on the FAME project and access to the online [2020-21 New FAME Coach application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewCoachApp) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewCoachApp) is available on the [MDE Formative Assessment Process page](http://www.michigan.gov/formativeassessment) (www.michigan.gov/formativeassessment) or the [FAME public page](https://famemichigan.org) (https://famemichigan.org)

The deadline to apply has been extended to **Friday, May 15, 2020**. If you have any questions, contact Kim Young, MDE/OEAA, at youngk1@michigan.gov or 517-241-7061.

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

Formative

Interim

Summative

Stay Home, Stay Safe Reading List

As you stay safe and healthy at home this spring, you may find you are looking for something different to read. This might be the perfect time to hone your assessment literacy skills. We'd like to recommend a few selections on Assessment Literacy that are go-to resources for us here at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

[How to Grade for Learning: Linking Grades to Standards, 4th ed. \(2017\) by Ken O'Connor](#)

This bestselling book, now in its fourth edition, provides guidelines and suggestions for implementing more effective grading practices in the classroom. This book will also be featured in an upcoming Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) Reads event. The Resources section at the end of this article has information on how to order the book and how to register for the event.

[Beyond the Bubble Test: How performance assessments support 21st century learning \(2014\) by Linda Darling Hammond and Frank Adamson](#)

Performance assessment is a hot topic in school systems, and educators continue to analyze its costs, benefits, and feasibility as a replacement for high-stakes testing. This book synthesizes the latest findings in the field and could prove to be a timely read for educators working to engage students through remote and online learning.

[Designing Authentic Performance Tasks and Projects: Tools for Meaningful Learning and Assessment \(2020\) by Jay McTighe, Kristina Doughty, and Eric Carbaugh,](#)

This book includes practical and easy-to-use resources that will help show how effective performance assessment can be implemented in a classroom, building, or district. This book was featured at the MAC Assessment Learning Network (ALN) professional learning event in March, *Assessing Deeper Learning with Jay McTighe*. With this book, educators who were able to attend the event will be able to extend their learning, and educators who were unable to attend can learn about how performance assessment can be used in their building and/or district.

[Leading Modern Learning: A Blueprint for Vision Driven Schools, 2nd ed. \(2019\) by Jay McTighe](#)

In the second edition of *Leading Modern Learning*, authors Jay McTighe and Greg Curtis outline a reworked version of their blueprint for major education reform. More than a simple refresh, this latest edition incorporates new insights, experiences, and tools that will help you implement modern learning practices in your department, school, or district. Chapter 4 specifically addresses assessment for modern learning.

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[The Perfect Assessment System](#) (2017) by Rick Stiggins

In this book, the author calls for a ground-up redevelopment of assessment in U.S. education, and maps out the changes in practice and culture necessary to generate both accurate accountability data and the specific evidence of individual mastery that will support sound instructional decision making and better learning in the classroom.

[The Power of Assessment for Learning](#) (2020) by Margaret Heritage and Christine Harrison

International education experts Christine Harrison and Margaret Heritage tackle assessment for learning (AfL) with fresh insights gained from two decades of research, theory, and classroom practice. Packed with key AfL ideas and supports, vignettes that illustrate AfL in action, and practice-based evidence to enrich understanding of AfL from both the teacher's and the student's perspectives, this book is a "sounding board" for educators to explore and reflect on their own AfL practices and beliefs.

The 2020-2021 Focus on Assessment Literacy series will resume in August. Until then, Stay Safe and Happy Reading!

Related Resources

[MAC Reads 2020](#)

The Michigan Assessment Consortium is hosting a MAC Reads event with Ken O'Connor, the author of *How to Grade for Learning: Linking Grades to Standards*, 4th ed. (2017).

The event will be bookended by two webinars, **April 28 and September 24, 2020, 4 to 5 p.m.**, to discuss the book with the author and the MAC Professional Learning Committee. Join the event as an individual participant, a district-level team, or as a cross-district group with your ISD. Cost is \$25.00 per participant or group.

For information on how to order the book and the study guide, and to register for this event, go to the [MAC Reads 2020 website](http://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/mac-reads-2020) (www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/mac-reads-2020).

Put Into Practice

Consider attending the MAC Reads event or forming a book study with your colleagues in the fall. Reflect on the following:

- What are three assessment techniques I learned in the reading that I can use in my teaching practice right away?
- List two ways this reading changed my understanding of assessment.
- If I could ask one question of the author(s), what would I ask?