

Please see **3 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) BAA Fall Conference Registration Now Open, 2) 2013 ELPA Rangefinding Invitation – Confirm by Wednesday, May 15, 2013, and 3) Michigan is Moving to the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT)

1) BAA Fall Conference Registration Now Open

Inspire Growth, A Collaboration of Michigan Educators...this is the focus of the Michigan Department of Education's Bureau of Assessment and Accountability Fall Conference. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate the successes of the past and work together toward the future of education for the students of Michigan. The conference will set the stage for the exchange of ideas about the next generation of student learning and assessment. There will be sessions in many formats – panel/round table discussions, mini skills, Q & A – on various topics, such as:

- 2013-14 Assessment Administration
- Accountability
- Next Generation Assessments
- Research and Post-secondary Transitions

The conference will be repeated four times around the state for the convenience of our participants. The dates and locations are as follows:

- **August 19:** Grand Valley State University Devos Campus, Grand Rapids [Register!](#)
- **August 23:** Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw [Register!](#)
- **September 11:** Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti [Register!](#)
- **September 16:** Northern Michigan University, Marquette [Register!](#)

Registrants will not be expected to register for individual sessions.

For more information, please visit the [2013 BAA Fall Conference website](#).

2) 2013 ELPA Rangefinding Invitation – Confirm by Wednesday, May 15, 2013

The Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) is gathering EL Educators to serve on an ELPA Rangefinding (RF) Committee to be held Wednesday and Thursday, May 29-30, 2013 at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, MI.

Rangefinding participants are tasked with identifying model student writing responses that are then used to train Questar hand scorers. Working with the scoring directors and content specialists, participants review student responses and select samples that represent each of the score points in a rubric, as well as responses that represent variances in model score points.

Information about the meeting location can be found on the Okemos Conference Center website, at www.okemosconferencecenter.com. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., a complimentary continental breakfast will be served each day of the meeting starting at 8:00 a.m., and the meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. each day. Lunch will also be provided for participants.

Questar Assessment, Inc. has arranged to provide lodging to RF Committee members who live more than 50 miles away. If you will require a hotel room, please indicate this when you confirm your attendance at the website below.

Besides travel expenses, you will receive a stipend of \$200.00 per day. Questar Assessment, Inc. will also reimburse your school district or public school academy for the cost of a substitute teacher if one is required.

Please confirm your interest in attending **no later than Wednesday, May 15, 2013**. Please click on the following link to fill out the Rangefinding Application. Participants will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis and will receive a confirmation e-mail.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2BKHJ5F>

We look forward to working with you. Please contact Cristina Rodriguez directly at (517) 373-7559 or via email, rodriguez@michigan.gov if you have questions.

3) Michigan is Moving to the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT)

The ELPA Initial Screening is being replaced by the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT). Michigan's move to WIDA for English language proficiency screening and assessment presents an opportunity to join 31 other states in providing quality assessments, the development of which are effectively shared across the member states.

Many aspects of the W-APT are similar to the ELPA Initial Screening; however there will be some significant changes that we have highlighted below:

- **Reusable Materials, On Demand** – Unlike the ELPA Initial Screening, you will no longer have to order materials from the BAA. Materials can be printed on demand directly from WIDA's website. Test booklets are only used by the person administering the test, not one per student. They can also be reused, so printing will be minimal.
- **Administration** - The W-APT is designed to be individually administered and adaptive, meaning that parts of the test may be discontinued as soon as the student reaches his or her performance "ceiling."
- **Material Returns** – Because materials are printed on demand, there will be no need to return materials to the BAA.

The BAA and WIDA will be working closely together in the coming months to develop a comprehensive training plan that will cover all aspects of the transition to the W-APT. Further details about the transition and its timing will be forthcoming.

Questions?

For assessment questions, please email baa@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option. Please remember that spring ELPA questions should be directed to Questar (menu option 5); however, ELPA Screener questions should be directed to BAA (menu option 7).