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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and Five-Year Assessment Plan

This item provides an update on the progress of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, and presents the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE's) five-year plan for student assessment.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Update

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has made the transition from the planning stage to the development stage. Multiple requests for proposals (RFPs) have been released, bid on, and contracts awarded to service providers. Other RFPs are in contract negotiations with vendors, others are in the process of reviewing bids, and yet others are still being written. The development work of the consortium is well underway. Table 1 lists each of the various RFPs and their statuses.

In addition, Figure 1 gives the timeline of Smarter Balanced milestones, showing each of the major activities to be carried out by the consortium over the next few years (with those already begun or completed shaded in gray). The consortium's work is well underway, and is currently on time to achieve the ultimate goal of administering operational assessments for the first time in the spring of the 2014-2015 school year.

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Table 1. Smarter Balanced RFP/Contract Status.

RFP Name	Service Provider	Status
Item Specifications	Measure Progress/ Educational Testing Service	Completed
Technology Readiness Tool	Pearson	Work Underway
IT Systems Architecture	Measured Progress	Work Underway
Psychometric Services	Educational Testing Service	Work Underway
Accessibility and Accommodation Policy Guidelines	Measured Progress	Work Underway
Item Authoring/Banking	Pacific Metrics	Work Underway
Item/Task Materials Development	Measured Progress	Work Underway
Test and Computer Adaptive Test Specifications	Educational Testing Service	Work Underway
Initial Achievement Level Descriptors	CTB/McGraw-Hill	Work Underway
Item/Task Writing and Review (Pilot)	CTB/McGraw-Hill	Work Underway
Develop Validation Research Agenda	Steve Sireci	Work Underway
Test Engine Development		In Contract Negotiations
Translations		In Contract Negotiations
Report Development		Bid Evaluation Underway
Test Administration		RFP Posted
Item/Task Writing and Review (Field Test)		RFP Not Yet Written
Scoring		RFP Not Yet Written
Standard Setting		RFP Not Yet Written

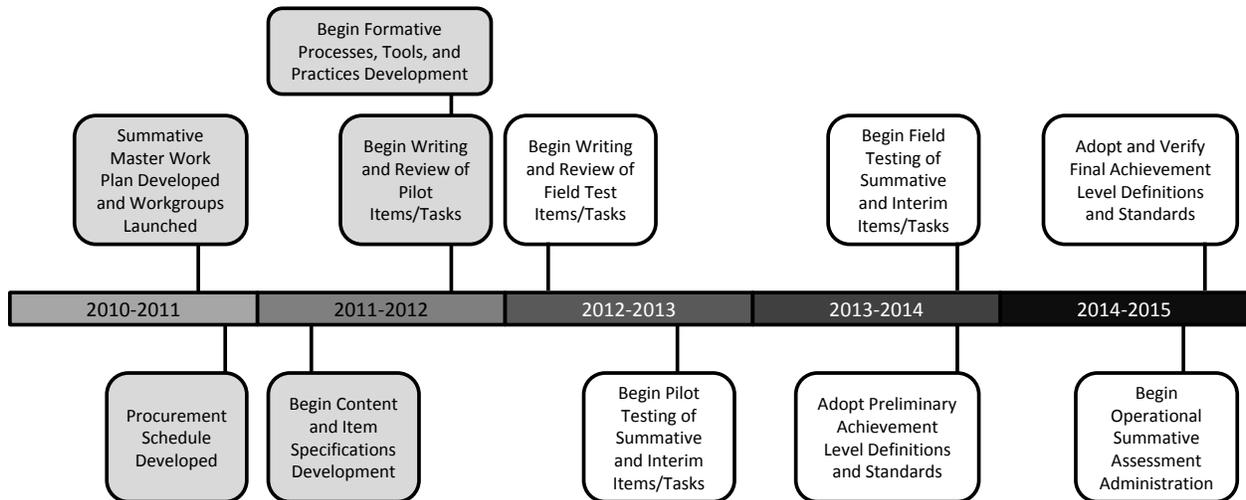


Figure 1. Smarter Balanced Major Milestones Timeline.

MDE's Five-Year Student Assessment Plan

The next five years will be a time of significant transition in student assessment in Michigan. MDE is transitioning over the next five years in four major ways: (1) moving assessment online by the 2014-15 school year, (2) moving toward consortium assessments to replacing Michigan's existing summative assessments by the 2014-15 school year, (3) developing new assessments in areas not addressed by the consortia to which Michigan belongs by the 2014-15 school year, and (4) preparing Michigan schools for the transition to online assessment through online pilots of existing and new assessments prior to the 2014-15 school year. Each of these four types of transitions is described in detail below.

(1) Moving Assessment Online by the 2014-15 School Year

All assessment consortia to which Michigan belongs intend to administer assessments online by the 2014-15 school year. MDE also intends to deploy all new assessments being developed by the 2014-15 school year as well.

Districts not technologically ready for online assessments in the 2014-15 school year will have the option to administer any mandatory assessments by paper and pencil, but will not receive the benefit of near immediate feedback about student performance on the assessments that districts that administer by computer will receive. Optional assessments being developed by MDE will only be available via computer administration.

(2) Moving Toward Consortium Assessments

MDE intends to adopt the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts and mathematics to replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in those subject areas for the 2014-15 school year. The Smarter Balanced assessments are anticipated to become the new MEAP and MME.

MEAP will also be replaced in science and social studies by the new assessments being developed (as described in the next section). MDE will continue to develop the science and social studies MME assessments, but will move those assessments online by the 2014-15 school year, with paper and pencil options for districts and schools not technologically ready to administer online assessments by that time.

In addition to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Michigan also belongs to the Dynamic Learning Maps consortium, which is developing computer-delivered alternate assessments to replace MI-Access in English language arts and mathematics by the 2014-15 school year. Michigan will continue to develop MI-Access assessments in science, and will develop a new MI-Access assessment in social studies¹ for deployment in the 2014-15 school year. Both MI-Access Science

¹ Required as a condition of receiving ESEA flexibility to include social studies in accountability calculations.

and Social Studies are anticipated to be moved online as much as possible in the 2014-15 school year.

Finally, Michigan is evaluating ACCESS for ELLs as a replacement for Michigan's proprietary English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). ACCESS for ELLs is developed by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium, a consortium of 26 member states (plus the District of Columbia). It is anticipated that ELPA will be replaced by the 2014-15 school year and will move online at that time.

(3) Development of New Assessments in Areas Not Addressed by the Consortia

In addition, MDE is currently developing assessments in the core content areas and grades not being addressed by Smarter Balanced. Smarter Balanced will make summative and interim assessments available in mathematics and English language arts in grades 3-11. MDE is rounding out the development of assessments in core content areas by developing full-service², optional assessments in the following areas for the 2014-15³ school year:

- Kindergarten entrance assessment (KEA) in multiple domains
- Mathematics and English language arts interim assessments (to be available as pre/post assessments at a minimum) in grades K-2
- Science interim assessments (pre/post at a minimum) in grades 3-7
- Social Studies interim assessments (pre/post at a minimum) in grades 3-8
- High school course content (pre/post) assessments in Michigan Merit Curriculum required credits, including
 - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science
 - American History + Geography, World History + Geography, Economics, Civics
 - Algebra II, Geometry
 - English 12

All full-service assessments described above will be administered solely by computer with one exception. The post-test assessments in grades 4 & 7 science and grades 5 & 8 social studies will also serve as the mandatory summative assessments described in federal and state law, replacing MEAP (or becoming the new MEAP) in those grades and content areas. Because of the mandatory nature of the summative assessments, paper and pencil options will be available to accommodate those schools and districts not ready to administer online assessments.

² Full service assessments include anticipated state payment for costs associated with administration, scoring, and reporting on the assessments. Current appropriations cover only the development costs associated with creating the assessments. Ongoing appropriations will be needed to cover administration, scoring, and reporting costs.

³ Depending on the ability of MDE to recruit schools for field testing these assessments, some assessments may be available by the 2013-14 school year.

In addition to development of full-service assessments, MDE is also developing model⁴, optional assessments in the following non-core areas:

- Health
- Physical Education
- The Arts (e.g., music, visual arts, performing arts)

It is anticipated that the full-service and model assessments being developed by MDE will be used (at a minimum) as pre/post measures of student achievement to measure student gains over time as required by state law regarding educator evaluation.

(4) *Preparing Michigan Schools for Online Assessment*

The following describe the many opportunities that will be available to districts to participate in piloting online assessment prior to the 2014-15 school year:

- MI-Access
 - 2012-13 Functional Independence online
 - 2012-13 Participation online answer document
 - 2012-13 Supported Independence online answer document
 - 2013-14 Functional Independence online
 - 2013-14 Participation online answer document
 - 2013-14 Supported Independence online answer document
- MEAP
 - Fall 2012 grade 6 and 9 social studies online
 - Fall 2013 grade 6 and 9 social studies online
 - Fall 2013 grades 5 and 8 science online
- MME
 - Spring 2014 day 3 online
- High School Course Content Assessments
 - Spring 2013 science and social studies high school course content online field test
 - 2013-14 Algebra II and Geometry online field test
 - 2013-14 English 12 online field test
- Elementary/Middle School Interim Assessment
 - Spring 2013 science 3-7 and social studies 3-8 interim online field test
 - Fall 2013 K-2 mathematics and English language arts interim online field test
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment
 - Spring 2014 online field test
- Consortium Field Tests
 - Spring 2013 Smarter Balanced online pilot
 - Spring 2014 ACCESS for ELLs online field test
 - Spring 2014 Dynamic Learning Maps online field test
 - Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced online field test

⁴ Districts may elect to adopt the use of the model assessments, but it is anticipated that the state will offer no services associated with administration, scoring, or reporting on the assessments.

Each of the consortia and MDE will be recruiting schools to participate in the online assessments over the next few years such that any school that desires to participate, and is technologically capable of doing so will be able to do so.

Summary of Five Year Plans

Table 2 gives a summary of the summative and interim assessments MDE will make available to districts and schools in the 2014-15 school year.

Table 2.

Subject	Grade												
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mathematics	i	i	i	s	s	s	s	s	s	S	S	S	c
Reading	i	i	i	s	s	s	s	s	s	S	S	S	c
Writing	i	i	i	s	s	s	s	s	s	S	S	S	c
Science	*	*	*	i	mi	i	i	mi	c	c	c	Mc	c
Social Studies	*	*	*	i	i	mi	i	i	mi	c	c	Mc	c
Other (e.g., Art, Music, P.E.)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

- i Interim assessment based on grade level content expectations
- c Interim course content assessments based on Michigan Merit Curriculum
- m MEAP end of year assessment
- M MME end of year assessment
- s Smarter Balanced (based on grade level common core). Includes interim grade level, and summative assessments.
- S Smarter Balanced (based on high school common core). Includes interim course content, and summative assessments..
- * Model interim/course content assessments