

# Spotlight



## on Student Assessment and Accountability

### What's New

December 12, 2014

#### Quick Links

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#### Online Waiver Requests – The Results Are In

Eighty-six percent of schools covering eighty-two percent of students have opted to administer M-STEP assessments online in the spring of 2015. The deadline for applying for a waiver was November 21, 2014. A report issued earlier this year indicated over 80% of schools met the minimum bandwidth requirement needed to accommodate online assessments.

This is the first time all Michigan statewide summative assessments will be offered online, (with the exception of the College Entrance and Work Skills that are a paper/pencil administration only). To help prepare, nearly 1,900 Michigan schools have performed pilot online testing over the past three and a half years. The state Legislature has invested more than \$100 million over the past two years to help get local districts technology-ready for the new assessments.

Joseph Martineau, Deputy Superintendent for the Division of Accountability Services said, "I would like to commend the Legislature for supporting the critical resources necessary to both increase the technology readiness of schools and prepare students to be assessed online." Martineau said, "I also commend the tremendous work that has been done in classrooms, schools, district, and ISDs to allow for the successful online administration of state summative assessments."

Online assessments can provide deeper, richer, faster assessment results to guide student learning.

For those schools not yet ready to make the transition to online assessments that submitted a waiver request prior to the November 21 deadline, a paper/pencil version of the assessments will be available. Due to cost concerns of preparing separate online and paper/pencil test forms, no change requests will be accepted.

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#### Reminders

#### Recently Asked Questions

► Sign up for Spotlight at:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>.

#### Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov).

For accountability questions, please email [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov).

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.

A detailed preliminary summary of waivers for M-STEP *only* are presented below:

- 82% of high schools (any school with 11th grade) are scheduled to administer M-STEP online.
- 82% of middle schools (any school with any grade 6-8) are scheduled to administer M-STEP online.
- 81% of elementary schools (any school with any grade 3-5) are scheduled to administer M-STEP online.
- Between 81% and 82% of students are scheduled to take the M-STEP online depending on grade level.

The definitions used for elementary, middle, and high school in the counts above mean that some schools are included in more than one summary. This explains discrepancies in percentages taking the test online between the total across all schools and by school type.

## Student Michigan Merit Exam (MME) Requirements

All grade 11 students attending a public school or public school academy are required to take the complete Michigan Merit Exam (MME) including: a college entrance exam (ACT Plus Writing); a work skills exam (WorkKeys); and, the Michigan Student Test for Educational Progress (M-STEP) English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies components.

Previously tested Grade 11 students who do not have valid scores in any MME subject tested including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies are eligible to retest. Grade 11 students who previously took the complete MME and have valid scores in all content areas are NOT eligible to retake the MME.

## Student Pre-Identification for Spring 2015

### ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys

Division of Accountability Services (DAS) has pre-identified students from the Fall 2014 Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) General Collection (student count day) and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files submitted in MSDS prior to December 1, 2014. Only students **required** to take the high school assessment for accountability purposes based on the data available to DAS were pre-identified.

For help identifying students **required** to test for accountability purposes go to [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ\\_HS\\_Grade\\_Assignment\\_for\\_Accountability\\_346186\\_7.pdf?20141209130229](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_HS_Grade_Assignment_for_Accountability_346186_7.pdf?20141209130229).

Additional students must be pre-identified directly on the Secure Site using one of the pre-ID methods available. DAS will NOT continue to pre-identify additional students from MSDS. This includes students who are eligible to test but not required to test for accountability purposes.

Students should be unassigned from a test cycle directly on the Secure Site if they have exited the school or the enrolled grade has changed to something other than 11 or 12.

New this year, the ACT plus Writing and WorkKeys are considered two separate “Test Cycles” in the Secure Site.

- Students will need to be pre-identified for **both** test cycles on the Secure Site. The “Test Period” for these two test cycles are titled Spring 2015 College and Career Ready. The two test cycles are labeled *Spring 2015 College and Career Ready ACT* and *Spring 2015 College and Career Ready WorkKeys*.

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- If selected, the Pre-ID report will show both students pre-identified to both test cycles.
  - Reviewing the Pre-ID report will be helpful to identify students who may have been pre-identified for one but not the other.
  - The Pre-ID Student Report can be accessed under the Pre-ID Functions menu. This will include all students pre-identified by DAS and additional students pre-identified by the district or school.

Student barcode labels will be printed and shipped by the contractor for students who were **pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 p.m., January 9, 2015**. Schools will be required to print barcode labels from the Secure Site for student answer documents pre-identified after January 9, 2015.

## WIDA K-12

DAS pre-identified students from the Fall 2014 MSDS General Collection (student count day) and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files submitted in MSDS prior to December 1, 2014.

All grade K-12 students identified in a LEP program in MSDS without an exit date prior to this school year were identified for testing.

Additional students must be pre-identified directly on the Secure Site using one of the Pre-ID methods available. DAS will NOT continue to Pre-ID additional students from MSDS.

Students should also be unassigned from a test cycle directly on the Secure Site if they have exited the school.

The Pre-ID Student Report can be accessed under the Pre-ID Functions menu. This will include all students pre-identified by DAS and additional students pre-identified by the district or school.

- The student barcode label column is available on the WIDA Pre-ID Student Report. This is important to note because the student's barcode number will be required to be bubbled on the student's answer document for students pre-identified in the Secure Site after January 9, 2015.

Student barcode labels will be printed and shipped by the contractor for students who were **pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 p.m., January 9, 2015**.

- Student barcode labels cannot be printed from the Secure Site for the WIDA assessment.

## M-STEP and MI-Access Grades 3-8 and 11

DAS will pre-identify students for M-STEP from the Fall 2014 MSDS General Collection (student count day) and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files submitted in MSDS through January 5, 2015.

- This means that if the district pupil accounting person submits SRM files in MSDS for students enrolled or exited after count day by January 5, 2015, those students will be reflected in the Pre-ID loaded by DAS.

DAS will **NOT** continue to Pre-ID additional students for M-STEP from MSDS. Additional students must be pre-identified directly on the Secure Site beginning January 12, 2015 using one of the Pre-ID methods available.

More information about M-STEP and MI-Access Pre-ID and material ordering will be available early January, 2015.

## **Opportunity to Try Out the New Model High School Arts Assessments!**

More high school arts educators are needed to field test **NEW performance assessments** in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts during the 2014-15 school year. The field test window continues through April, 2015. **Enroll now to participate in second semester.**

The assessments, commissioned by the Michigan Department of Education, are designed to gauge student achievement of state and national standards while instruction is occurring. These measures are designed as curriculum-embedded performance assessments. Two item types were created by Michigan arts educators, the Michigan Assessment Consortium, and Data Recognition Corporation:

- Performance tasks (multi-day/multi-session performance assessments)
- Performance events (one class period, on-demand performance assessments)

## **Field Test Information**

Teachers who participate in the field test will select a limited number of tasks and events that are best related to their instructional plans. The full suite of draft assessments will be available to participating teachers during the 2014-15 academic year. Theatre and Dance teachers are especially needed to ensure all items have a try-out. Teachers can enroll online and order their items. **Visit [MAEIA - High School Assessment Field Test Resources | Michigan Assessment Consortium](#) for detailed information and to register. Registration is open until March, 2015.**

For more information about the assessments, please contact Dr. Ed Roeber, *Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment (MAEIA)*, at 517-614-4877.

## Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

### M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview

The M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview is now available for Michigan students and teachers. The preview is intended to provide students and teachers with a brief look at the technology-enhanced item types they are likely to see for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Students will also have an opportunity to use the navigation tools and features of the online delivery engine. Students and teachers may log into the Spring 2015 Preview as often as they like.

**Please note:** The Spring 2015 Preview is just that, a preview of the item types and system tools. It does not represent all standards for ELA and mathematics, nor all grade levels. A more complete M-STEP sample will be released in early 2015.

The M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview **must** be used in Google Chrome. Copy and paste this link into Chrome <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1>. Click on the 2015 Preview Link, you will then need to click to sign on. Once on the sign in page, use the username and password displayed on the screen to log in.

### Articles in Last Week's December 4, 2014 Spotlight:

To access the following *What's New?* articles from last week's Spotlight edition, go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight-December-4-2014\\_475718\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight-December-4-2014_475718_7.pdf)

- **Improving Michigan's Accountability System to Better Measure Student Growth**—page 1
- **M-STEP Mathematics Assessment**—page 2

- **NEW for Spring 2015—Alternate Assessment Options for Social Studies**—page 3
- **Splitting MI-Access and M-STEP by Content Area**—page 3
- **School Calendar Survey for Schools with Students Enrolled in Grades 3 and/or 6, and Year-Round Schools**—page 4

## Important Dates

### December 2014

- Student Pre-Identification is open for Spring 2015 ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys. See related article in this weeks Spotlight.
- WIDA Pre-ID and Materials Order is open. See instructions on page 6 of the [November 20, 2014 Spotlight](#).
- Now – February 11, 2015 - Window for ACT to receive ACT- Approved Accommodations Late Consideration Form. For questions, please contact ACT by phone at 800-553-6244 ext.1788 or via email at [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org).

### January 2015

- **January 9, 2015:** Last date to Pre-ID students for ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys to receive pre-printed barcode labels. Schools will be required to print barcode labels for students pre-identified after January 9, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.

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## Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

- **January 6–13, 2015:**
  - Test coordinators confirm ACT Plus Writing enrollment number.
  - Order WorkKeys standard time and accommodated materials via the ACT Establishment and Ordering system (OTIS).

Additional information is forthcoming from ACT.
- **January 12, 2015:** Student Pre-Identification opens for Spring 2015 M-STEP and MI-Access Assessments for students in grades 3–8 and 11.
- **January 14, 2015:** ACT Test Administration Q&A Session. Registration information was sent to ACT test coordinators the week of November 23rd. For questions, please contact ACT by phone at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 or via the Contact Us page at <http://www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html>.
- **Late January:** Material orders for paper/pencil open for Spring 2015 M-STEP and MI-Access for students in grades 3–8 and 11.

## Recently Asked Questions

### Do foreign exchange students need to take the Michigan Merit Exam?

Yes, if a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 11th grade. All grade 11 students will be expected to test and count in accountability calculations. If a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 12th grade, that student is **NOT** expected to test.

### Can students travel from one room to another with their test tickets?

No. Test tickets are considered secure materials and must be collected by the test proctor before the student leaves the room, maintained in secured chain of custody, and re-distributed to the student when testing resumes.

### Must each content area be given in a certain order?

For paper/pencil testing, subjects must be administered on dates specified in the paper/pencil testing schedule: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring\\_2015\\_Testing\\_Schedule\\_Update\\_464310\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_Testing_Schedule_Update_464310_7.pdf). The Classroom Activity must be completed prior to administration of the Performance Task.

### English Language Arts

- Day 1 ELA paper/pencil test will include parts 1 and 2 (fixed-form plus a listening part).
- Day 2 ELA paper/pencil test will be the Performance Task.
- The 30-minute ELA Classroom Activity for paper/pencil may be administered the Monday before testing, on Day 1 (before or after testing), or on Day 2 (before the Performance Task).

### Mathematics

- Day 1 mathematics paper/pencil test will include one part (fixed-form).
- Day 2 mathematics paper/pencil test will include the 30-minute Classroom Activity and the Performance Task.
- For more information, please see the [M-STEP Spring 2015 Michigan Assessment Transition – November 2014](#) document.
- For **online testing**, not all students have to be administered the same assessment at the same time, nor on the same day. Schools have the flexibility to determine which students will be administered which subject, on which day. This flexibility extends across the entire test window for that grade level.

### Is a pause available for online testing?

Yes, there is a 20 minute timed pause. If more than 20 minutes elapses, the system will require students to login before resuming testing. The session must be completed on the day it was begun.

► *Prior Recently Asked Questions can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently\\_Asked\\_Questions\\_470957\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently_Asked_Questions_470957_7.pdf).*