

# Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

## What's New

May 21, 2015

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## Important Dates and Reminders

- Key:
-  information Tech Coordinators also need to know
  -  supports and accommodations information

# WOW!

Over **3,000,000**  
test sessions completed!

### Preliminary Reporting System – Now Open!

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the online preliminary reporting system, through the MDE Secure Site. These preliminary reports provide an initial view of how students performed on their M-STEP test this year. This release begins with grades 5 and 8 and provides a “dynamic live” view into the scoring of this year’s assessments. Given that the scoring of this year’s tests is occurring on an ongoing basis, information may change slightly as scoring reaches completion for any certain grade. Please remember that these reports are for **students testing online only**, and this is preliminary information that should not be used for any high-stakes purposes.

**Note:** *the preliminary report data are **embargoed**. These reports are for internal use only, and not to be shared or made public.*

We are excited to be able to release this first phase of the transition to online reporting. Our team is actively working on improving the speed and efficiency of the reporting system. We appreciate your continued understanding as together we grow and develop the best assessment and reporting systems possible for Michigan students.

For information on how to access the preliminary report data, please see *How to Access and View Preliminary Reports for Online Testing* document on the M-STEP web page at [www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) under *What's New*, or click on the following link: [www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Preliminary\\_Report\\_Information\\_490146\\_7.pdf](http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Preliminary_Report_Information_490146_7.pdf).

► Sign up for Spotlight at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>. Enter your email address and select Spotlight under Student Assessment.

## MI-Access Functional Independence Expressing Ideas Returns

Just a reminder: if you have *MI-Access Functional Independence Expressing Ideas* assessments completed but have not yet sent them back, please use one of your return kit labels to return these responses ahead of your other returns. Having these materials returned as soon as possible will help as we amass enough data to use in the standard setting process. Completing the standard setting process in a timely manner ensures that reporting is also turned around to you in a timely manner.

Thank you for your assistance and your flexibility regarding these returns, and a big **“Thank You”** to those who have already sent in your returns.

## MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence: How to Submit Answers

The MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence level assessments require student responses to be submitted using the online answer document portal. The building or district coordinator will provide the primary assessment administrator with a *test ticket* used to log into the answer document portal. Be sure to check that both the test ticket and the online answer document contain the correct grade band (**3–5**, **6–8**, or **11**) and assessment level (designated with a **P** for Participation and **SI** for Supported Independence).

A brief tutorial on how to enter student responses into the online answer document can be found on eDIRECT at [mi.dracedirect.com](http://mi.dracedirect.com) (you do not need a login to access it). Click on *General Information* and then *Documents*. Choose *MI-Access Alternate Assessment* under the **Administration** menu and *Mini-Modules* under the **Document Type** menu. This tutorial titled **MI-Access Online Answer Document** will appear at the bottom of the list.

In addition, an instruction document containing the link to the online answer document portal (which requires the test tickets to log in) is found at: [http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/P-SI\\_Online\\_Answer\\_Document\\_-\\_Instructions\\_final\\_481663\\_7.pdf](http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/P-SI_Online_Answer_Document_-_Instructions_final_481663_7.pdf). Please remember to sign the scoring documents used during your administration of the assessment. These documents should be given to the district coordinator to store along with your signed Security Agreements. Do not return the scoring documents with your other returns.



The Division of Accountability Services is pleased to announce the **2015 DAS Fall Conferences**, to be held at four locations around the state of Michigan. The dates and locations are:

**August 20, 2015** — Lansing Convention Center, Lansing, MI

**August 25, 2015** — Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI

**August 27, 2015** — Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI

**September 1, 2015** — Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI

In upcoming Spotlights, there will be more information on how to register, program details, and more! We look forward to seeing you!



**NOTE:** There is **time sensitive KEA information** on the following page...

## Time Sensitive: KEA Summer Professional Learning Registration Information

Educators interested in attending one of the summer professional learning events for the Fall 2015 Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) must first ensure their district has registered to administer the KEA by the following dates. Participants who will be attending a professional learning event and need overnight accommodations will need to register early in order to guarantee overnight accommodations.

- **Register by May 29**

- ▶ June 16/17: Grand Rapids, Kent ISD (Max # of participants: 50)
- ▶ June 17/18: Novi, Novi Middle School (Max # of participants 30)

- **Register by June 30\***

- ▶ July 21/22: Marquette, Marquette Alger RESA (Max # of participants: 60)
- ▶ July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD (Max # of participants: 35)

- **Register by July 31\***

- ▶ August 10/11: Mason, Ingham ISD (Max # of participants: 60)
- ▶ August 12/13: Traverse City, Traverse Bay Area ISD (Max # of participants: 60)

\*Interested educators traveling more than 50 miles one way from their home who need hotel accommodations for their selected location must register for the professional learning event by the dates below, otherwise MDE cannot guarantee lodging:

\*Register by **June 8, 2015** (if lodging is needed for the July or August professional learning sessions)



If your district has registered to participate in the fall KEA but you did not receive the KEA Professional Learning Registration email, please first confirm with your KEA District Coordinator that your district's registration to participate in administering the KEA has been completed.

If you have additional questions related to registration for the Fall 2015 KEA or registering for the summer professional learning events, please call 1-877-560-8378, Option 6 or send an email to [baa@michigan.gov](mailto:baa@michigan.gov).

## SAT Corner

### Highlighting Changes to the SAT

In the last installment of the SAT Corner, we outlined eight key changes to the redesigned SAT – and highlighted relevant words in context, where students will be asked to interpret the meaning of words based on the context of the passage in which they appear. These are words students will use throughout their lives — in high school, college, and beyond. Here we'd like to focus on another one of the eight key changes to the SAT: *Essay Analyzing a Source*.

#### Essay Analyzing a Source

The focus of the Essay section on the redesigned SAT will be very different from the essay on the current SAT. Students will read a passage and explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience. Students may analyze aspects of the passage such as the author's use of evidence, reasoning, and stylistic and persuasive elements. This task more closely mirrors college writing assignments.

The new Essay section is designed to support high school students and teachers as they cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing. It will promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing how authors do their work as writers.

The essay prompt will be shared in advance and remain consistent. Only the source material (passage) will change. The Essay will be a **required** component of the SAT for the Michigan Juniors who'll take the test in spring of 2016.

Read more about *Essay Analyzing a Source*, and view a sample question at [https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/essay\\_analyzing\\_a\\_source.pdf](https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/essay_analyzing_a_source.pdf).

### Get ready for the Fall PSAT/NMSQT

***Begin applications for students needing accommodations now.***

The **College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)** is committed to making sure students with disabilities can take PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, PSATTM 10 or SAT with the accommodations they need. The College Board will consider all requests in order to ensure that we measure students' academic abilities, regardless of their disabilities. Examples of common accommodations include, but are not limited to: extended time, breaks, medical management, change of setting, scribe, large block answer sheet, braille, large print tests, audio/readers, and written copy of oral instructions.

The College Board's request process can take up to **seven weeks**. School staff and SSD Coordinators should begin submitting accommodations requests online at [collegeboard.org/ssd](http://collegeboard.org/ssd) – where staff can also track and manage accommodation requests. Documentation of the student's disability and need for specific accommodations is required.

Approved accommodations (with some exceptions) will follow the student and can be used on future College Board exams, including SAT, SAT Subject Tests, PSAT/NMSQT, PSATTM 10, and AP Exams.

The College Board will work directly with the Michigan Department of Education to train educators on the accommodations request process.

Explore the College Board SSD Website at <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>.

## Important Dates and Reminders

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.



### Approaching Deadlines!

#### MI-Access

- **May 22, 2015:** Last day to order additional materials in the Secure Site for Paper/pencil materials not ordered previously. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.**

**Note:** For ALL MI-Access FI students being assessed in *ELA: Expressing Ideas* – this test is available **only** in a paper/pencil format. Materials must be ordered through the Secure Site.

*Reminder: Expressing Ideas is now assessed in all grades.*

*testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*

#### MI-Access

- **NOW – May 29, 2015:** MI-Access testing window for all grades
- **NOW – June 30, 2015:** now accepting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception applications. Applications are completely electronic and are available through the Secure Site. Districts that already have an approved 1% exception application from the 2012–13 or 2013–14 school years need not re-apply.

### May 2015

#### MME

- **Week of May 25, 2015:** WorkKeys Student Score Reports arrive in schools

#### KEA

- **May 29, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in June trainings
  - ▶ June 16/17: Grand Rapids
  - ▶ June 17/18: Novi

#### M-STEP

- **NOW – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 3, 6, and 11
- **Now – June 1, 2015—Grades 3 and 6:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools*

#### M-STEP and MI-Access

- **NOW:** eDIRECT is available for District and Building Coordinators to manage test sessions, set individual student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets. Supports and accommodations must be selected in eDIRECT before printing test tickets for the applicable students. **Printed test tickets are SECURE materials.**

### June 2015

#### M-STEP

- **Wednesday, June 10, 2015:** The last day to ship grades 3 and 6 paper/pencil test materials to the scoring vendor, Measurement, Inc., *without penalty*. See the paper/pencil materials shipping dates table in the *Spring 2015 Testing Schedule* located at [www.michigan.gov/baa](http://www.michigan.gov/baa).

Check now to make sure you have the necessary materials to ensure shipments can be made by the deadline.

## Important Dates and Reminders

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.



### MME

- **Week of June 22, 2015:** ACT High School and District Reports arrive in schools

## June/July 2015

### KEA

- **June 30, 2015\***: Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in July trainings
  - ▶ July 21/22: Marquette
  - ▶ July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie
- **July 31, 2015\***: Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in August trainings
  - ▶ August 10/11: Lansing
  - ▶ August 12/13: Traverse City

\*Interested educators traveling more than 50 miles one way from their home who need hotel accommodations for their selected location must register for the professional learning event by the date below, otherwise MDE cannot guarantee lodging:

\*Register by **June 8, 2015**  
(if lodging is needed for the July or August professional learning sessions)



### Class/Group Codes

Class/Group Codes are a way districts and schools can designate user-defined reporting groups of students. These four-digit codes can be assigned to students from the Secure Site. Please see sections *8.2 Update Individual Student Records* and *8.3 Mass Updates* in the *Secure Site Procedure and User Manual* for information on how to assign Class/Group Codes.

- **Preliminary Reports:** Class/Group Codes that are in the Secure Site will be reflected in the Preliminary Reports when the reports first become available. Updates made after the initial release of Preliminary Reports will not be reflected in the Preliminary Reports.
- **Final Reports:** Schools have until the end of the *Accountable Students and Test Verification* window (tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2015) to enter Class/Group Codes for Final Reports.

Reports will not use eDIRECT test session information. eDIRECT Test sessions are solely for the purpose of grouping students for test administration and are unrelated to reporting. If a school or district wants to create a user-defined grouping of students for reporting purposes, then a Class/Group Code must be used. For example, a school might want to group all students in a particular class or students who are participating in a special program together for reporting purposes.

▶ To access previous Spotlight editions, go to [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_31168-280911--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html).

### 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.