

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

August 27, 2015

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Student and Parent Survey Information

Last week, we outlined several very positive changes for the Spring 2016 M-STEP test administration, due in part to the substantial feedback solicited through surveys, focus groups, and from key stakeholders on ways we can improve our assessment system.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be sharing various survey information and key findings in our weekly Spotlight.

A total of three surveys were conducted among individuals having first-hand online test administration experience. Respondents included 3,411 educators/administrators, 277 technology staff, and 26,125 students. A fourth survey was conducted among 5,794 parents on local and state communication tools and activities involving M-STEP.

In this week's edition, we will be sharing a snapshot of key findings from both the student survey and the parent survey and links to the complete student and parent survey information and findings documents.

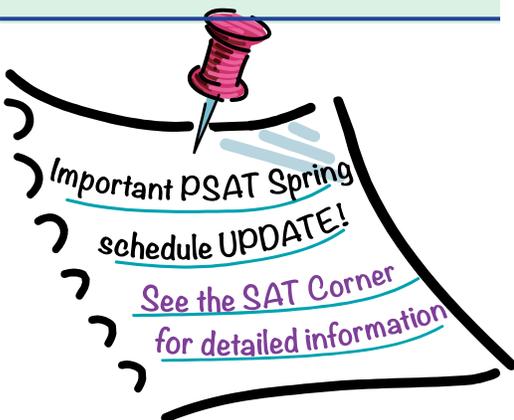
Snapshot of Student Survey Information and Findings

To obtain important input from students who took the new M-STEP online, a two-week student survey was launched on May 29, 2015 and closed June 12, 2015. The online survey was completed by 26,125 students in grades 3–8 and 11.

Survey questions focused on the value and usefulness of:

- Practice tools and test samples in preparing for the test
- The clarity of test questions
- The Classroom Activity in preparing students for the Performance Task

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- The ease of use of test and computer tools
- Ease of using keyboard and logging on to the test
- Maneuverability within the test

Student survey participation tended to be higher among students in grades 3–6. This in part could have been due to the release of the survey during student testing in grades 3 and 6.

Key Findings:

Practice Tools and Test Samples

- Nearly 90% of students said they used the tools and samples to practice the test at least once, with a majority practicing two or more times. Over 12% of students said they did not practice.
- Among the students who practiced, a majority thought the practice was helpful in preparing for the test. However, nearly a quarter did not think it was helpful.
- Younger students thought practicing prepared them the most. As student grade levels increased the perceived value decreased.

For more detailed information on the key findings of the [Spring 2015 M-STEP Student Survey Results](#), go to the [M-STEP web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under the *What's New* section.

Snapshot of Parent Survey Information and Findings

In addition to the surveys conducted with individuals having first-hand online test administration experience, an online survey to obtain important input from parents of students who took the M-STEP was also conducted. This survey was designed to obtain parent input on M-STEP local and state communication tools and activities.

The two-week parent survey was launched on June 4, 2015 and closed June 19, 2015. The online survey was completed by a total of 5,794 parents.

Survey questions focused on:

- Where and when parents obtained M-STEP information and its usefulness
- Parent knowledge and students' home usage of M-STEP online practice tools
- The ease and usefulness of the MDE and M-STEP web pages
- Parent suggestions to improve communications about state assessments

Parent survey participation also tended to be higher among those with students in grades 3–6.

Key Findings

M-STEP Information

- Over 64 percent of parents said they received information on the new M-STEP assessment prior to their children taking the test.
- More parents obtained information from their local school and district than from any other source.
- Other major sources of information included Michigan Department of Education web site, online searches, and print and broadcast media coverage.

For more detailed information on the key findings of the [Spring 2015 Parent Survey Results](#), go to the [M-STEP web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under the *What's New* section.

Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Tasks and Tools

KEA Inter-Rater Reliability

This is a reminder that teachers participating in this year's Kindergarten Entry Assessment **MUST** complete the Inter-Rater Reliability module by September 4, 2015.

This step **MUST** be completed in order for teachers participating in the KEA to utilize the TS Gold tool. Kindergarten students will not be loaded into the TS Gold tool unless this step is completed, nor will teachers be able to manually add students to the TS Gold tool.

Pre-Identifying KEA Students

Schools participating in the Kindergarten Entry Assessment can now begin pre-identifying students in the MDE Secure Site. This step **MUST** be completed in order for teachers participating in the KEA to utilize the TS Gold tool. **NOTE:** Test sessions cannot be created in the Secure Site for individual teachers until the teacher has completed their IRR certification.

Directions for completing KEA Pre-ID can be found on the [MDE Secure Site Training](http://www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining). Please refer to the *KEA Pre-Identification Directions-Fall 2015* document and *KEA Online Sessions Page Quick Reference* guide. For questions about Pre-ID and the MDE Secure Site, please email baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378 and press Option 3.

KEA Assessment Crosswalks

Four crosswalks have been added to the [Michigan KEA website](http://www.michigan.gov/kea) (www.michigan.gov/kea) that provide information to teachers and administrators on the overlap of the TS Gold tool and several different assessments (DIBELS, DRA 2, DRA 2 Word Analysis, and PALS) currently used by schools across the state. Please review the information in these documents to take advantage of using data you may already be collecting to inform the KEA.

KEA Support Options for Teachers

A number of support options are available for educators and administrators as schools implement the KEA this fall. More information about those options can be found in the [KEA Support Options](#) document on the [KEA website](http://www.michigan.gov/kea) (www.michigan.gov/kea).

Update for WIDA Website Users

The WIDA assessments are Michigan's assessment program for our English Learner (EL) population. We want to let ALL registered WIDA website users know about updates that may affect user accounts as improvements are made to the system. To ensure uninterrupted access to the Secure Portal area of the WIDA website, please confirm your account by following the directions in the [WIDA Website Changes](#) document located on the [Michigan WIDA web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/wida) under the *What's New* section. **If no action is taken by September 30, 2015, your account will be inactivated in the system.** No user data will be deleted.

Thank you for taking time to verify and update your WIDA website user account. If you need to set up an account, you may do so through the [WIDA website](http://www.wida.us) (www.wida.us) with user name **michigan** and password **mitten** to create your account. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the WIDA Client Services Center – help@wida.us or 866-276-7735.

SAT Corner

Information provided by the College Board

Get Ready for Spring PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT Testing!

We are listening!

In response to feedback from educators, MDE and the College Board have revisited the test date requirements for PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 to address concerns about capacity. **The College Board will support schools testing PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 over separate days if necessary.** Therefore, schools can elect to administer the test to 9th graders on one day, 10th graders on the other day, or test both grades on the same day. As long as all students in the same grade are tested on the same day, schools can choose which date—April 12 or April 13—works best for them. The SAT is required to be administered on April 12, 2015, as previously announced. We hope that this flexibility will allow the varying needs across districts to be met.

Over the next several weeks we will be sharing more information to support you as you begin to think about how to manage the April 12–13, 2016 test dates for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT. If you've administered PSAT/NMSQT in the past, you'll find the requirements are very similar.

Test Day Staff

We recommend you begin thinking now about your test day staff. Depending upon the number of students to be tested and how many students with disabilities require separate rooms, schools will need to identify the following staff for each assessment:

Test Center Supervisor

- The person responsible for all pre-admin activities, including preparing facilities,

assigning test day staff, and receiving and storing test materials.

- This can be the same person across 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, or it can be different people for each grade level
- **Once the supervisor for spring testing is identified for each assessment, please add their name and contact information to the Educational Entity Master (EEM) so that we are able to begin notifying them directly of pertinent information.** There will be fields to identify the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT Supervisor for each assessment. If the person is the same across all assessments, please add their contact information three times. **Note to Fall testers:** College Board will use the contact information provided when you ordered test materials.

Associate Supervisor(s)

- The Associate Supervisors are accountable for everyone in the testing room and everything that takes place in that room, including management of all testing materials, conducting the testing, and monitoring test-takers to ensure a fair administration.
- We recommend using current or retired teachers, counselors, administrators, or other educators who are familiar with test administration and/or classroom management.
- Each room requires one Associate Supervisor.

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Proctor(s) and Hall Monitors

- These are responsible for assisting the Test Center Supervisors and Associate Supervisors.
- Proctors do not administer the test, but they do help set up the testing area and monitor testing. Hall Monitors patrol the hallways during testing to make sure the testing area remains quiet and secure.
- Proctors and Hall Monitors may be members of the school staff or other adults who have been trained to help Test Center Supervisors and Associate Supervisors. Please use the following table to determine how many proctors will be needed for each room and each assessment:

Number of Test-Takers	Number of Proctors <i>(in addition to the Associate Supervisor)</i>
For a Single Standard Testing Room	
1–34 students	0
35–50 students	1
51–100 students	2
101 or more	1 proctor for each additional 50 students
For a Single Nonstandard Testing Room	
1-10 students	0
More than 10 students	1

We'll continue to provide information as soon as it becomes available, through Spotlight and through College Board's [Michigan website](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan?excmpid=MTG308-AL-1-mat) (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan?excmpid=MTG308-AL-1-mat>).

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

Assessment and Accountability

- **September 1, 2015:** DAS Conference on Student Assessment and Accountability at Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI
- **September 4, 2015:** deadline for teachers participating in this year's Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) to complete the Inter Rater Reliability module

September

Assessment and Accountability

- **September 16, 2015:** The 2015 Graduation Rate Appeals Window in MSDS will close.

For the most up-to-date information on the appeals window, please visit the [CEPI Graduation and Droupout Information](http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html) web page (http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html). If you have any questions, please send an email to CEPI customer support at CEPI@michigan.gov or call (517) 335-0505 and follow the prompts.

► Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html), (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html)

Have Other 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.