

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of October 13, 2014

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ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys Update

- ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys *will* be part of the Michigan Spring 2015 accountability system. Participation in both ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys, as well as performance on the ACT Plus Writing will be factored in school accountability scorecards.

Important Dates

- The ACT College Entrance and Work Skill Establishment process ends October 17, 2014. For questions regarding establishing, contact ACT at **1.800.553.6244, ext. 2800**.
- ACT is hosting two accommodations Q&A sessions on October 22, 2014 at 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. As schools establish, emails will be sent out to test coordinators regarding the accommodations Q&A sessions.
- ACT Establishment Packets were shipped to high schools and should have been received. If your high school has not received an establishment packet, please call ACT at **1.800.553.6244, ext. 2800**.

As additional details are finalized they will be communicated through future Spotlights.

The Flexibility of Online Testing

- Schools participating in the spring 2015 summative assessments **ONLINE** have the flexibility to schedule test sessions at *any time* on *any day* throughout their designated testing window. Online assessment administration does **not** require testing of all students in one content area on the same day. For example, if you have 30 computers, but only 10 headsets, you may want to schedule 10 students to take the ELA assessment which has a listening component, and 20 students to take the science assessment. Or 10 students take science, 10 take social studies, and 10 take math. Students must finish a session during that scheduled time.

Online Testing

has the flexibility of testing **any students at any time on any day** during the testing window designated for each grade level.

Paper/Pencil Testing

will be administered within the same windows as online, but with initial and makeup testing dates specified for each grade and content area.

Reminders

Recently Asked Questions

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.

Schools are encouraged to try to schedule online tests during the beginning of the testing window in order to reserve time at the end of the testing window for students who were absent during the earlier scheduled sessions.

The online testing window spans a total of eight weeks with specified grades testing in sub-windows. For example, students in grades 5 and 8 test over a three-week period beginning the week of April 13, 2015. Students in grades 4 and 7 test over a three-week period beginning the week of April 27, 2015. The full schedule, encompassing all spring summative assessments and sub-windows for all grades, can be found at www.michigan.gov/baa.

Paper/Pencil administrations need to be administered on set days as they have in the past. Calendars for paper/pencil testing can be found in the Spring 2015 Testing Schedule Update at http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_Testing_Schedule_Update_464310_7.pdf.

Pre-identification of Students for Spring 2015 Assessments

The windows for Pre-Id'ing your students in the Secure Site will open:

Early December 2014

- ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys
- WIDA

Early January 2015

- Summative and MI-Access grades 3–8 and 11

Material Orders for Paper/Pencil

The windows for ordering materials for students taking the paper/pencil assessments will open:

Early December 2014

- WIDA

Early January 2015

- Summative and MI-Access grades 3–8 and 11
- ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys (will be done through ACT – not the Secure Site)

Technology Readiness Information

Beginning in spring 2015, all statewide general assessments as well as the MI-Access Functional Independence assessments will be administered online.

Note: The online testing device requirements was updated in September. Please be sure you are referencing the version dated 9-15 in the lower right corner of the document.

Technology Readiness, Device Information and Resources:

- **For technology readiness information visit:** <http://22itrig.org/>
- **Online testing device requirements can be found at** http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_DeviceRequirements9-15-14.pdf.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test Surveys

A vital part of every field testing process is the constructive feedback received from participating schools. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is opening two Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test surveys on Friday, October 17, 2014. The feedback collected from these surveys is extremely valuable in helping guide MDE in future online assessment administrations. If you participated in this field test, please consider completing the appropriate survey below.

[The Fall 2014 Fall Interim Assessment Technology Coordinator Survey](#) is geared towards Technology Coordinators and meant to collect technical feedback about the field tests.

[The Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Post-Administration Survey](#) is geared towards Interim Assessment Coordinators and school staff who were directly involved in the administration of the field tests.

Each survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0—Online Field Test

Districts can now register for the online Spring 2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Field Test taking place February 9, 2015 – April 10, 2015. As an incentive, participating districts have the option to receive FREE headsets (headphone and microphone combination).

Michigan districts who participate this year will also be able to receive an *ACCESS for ELLs Growth Report* outlined in this [ACCESS for ELLs Growth Report User Guide](#). This report, normally a for-purchase option for districts that have two years' worth of WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessment data, would show districts a comparison of growth for students on the ACCESS for ELLs by grade span, language domain or composite, and starting English language proficiency level as compared to all students nationwide who took the assessment.

Please also note that participating students must take the regular paper/pencil ACCESS for ELLs assessment in addition to the online field test.

A number of resources are available for schools to obtain more information about participating in the online field test:

- **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Field Test Overview Video:** [http://assets.wceruw.org/implementation/ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Overview.wmv](http://assets.wceruw.org/implementation/ACCESS%20for%20ELLs%20Field%20Test%20Overview.wmv)
- **Registration Video:** <http://assets.wceruw.org/implementation/092414Video.aspx>
- **Registration Instructions:** <http://assets.wceruw.org/implementation/FieldTestDatabaseRG.pdf>

These resources, along with the Test Coordinator Comprehensive Guide, and the, Technology Coordinator and Test Administrator Checklists, can be found on the WIDA Field Test website under the Preparation Resources tab: <http://assets.wceruw.org/implementation/fieldtest.aspx#webinar>.

For questions about participating, please contact Alex Bauer at asbauer@wisc.edu or 1-608-265-0601.

View Historical Student Assessment Scores in the MDE Secure Site

One of the enhancements on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Secure Site is the ability for districts and schools to view historic state assessment scores for new students who did not test in the district or school. Because of system timing issues, this function has not always been available. Changes have been made to the MDE Secure Site to update the student's primary educational providing entity (PEPE) in real time from MSDS, so now historic scores will be available immediately.

IMPORTANT - Prior to being able to view scores for students who did not test in the district or school, the student's PEPE must be changed to the district and school in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). This can be done by submitting the new student enrollment information in MSDS through the fall or spring MSDS general collection or by using a student record maintenance (SRM) file in between collections. The district pupil accounting person can assist with enrollment submissions MSDS.

Once the student's PEPE has been updated in MSDS, district and school users will have immediate access to the student's historic MEAP, MME, MI-Access, ELPA, ELPA screener, WIDA, and W-APT scores through the student demographic screen on the Secure Site.

Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

Request for Paper/Pencil Administration

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and schools around the state have been preparing to transition to online state assessments. Starting in spring 2015, all statewide general assessments as well as the MI-Access Functional Independence assessments will be administered online.

A paper/pencil version of the assessments will be available for schools that are not yet ready to make the transition to online assessments. Guidance on how to submit online waiver request(s) for the administration of the assessments via paper/pencil at your school can be accessed at http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

The deadline to submit the online waiver request(s) is November 7, 2014.

NOTE: A waiver request can only be submitted by a district administrator level user of the Secure Site.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test for iPads and Chromebooks

Registration is now open for iPads and Chromebooks at <https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall14-interim-ipadchromebook-field-test/>. Schools that have participated in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test (desktops and laptops only—which ends October 17, 2014) may also participate in the iPad and Chromebook field test; however, these schools are still required to complete the iPad and Chromebook registration survey.

Note: Students may not take the same assessment more than once. For example, if a student took the ELA assessment during the desktop and laptop field test window, that same student may not take the ELA assessment during the iPad and Chromebook field test window.

Important Dates

- The test window runs from October 20, 2014 to November 14, 2014.
- Software necessary for the installation of DRC's test engine, INSIGHT, will be released on October 18, 2014.
- Technical Coordinator User Guide, checklists, and administration manuals will be available for review on October 13, 2014 at <https://mi.drccedirect.com/>.

Participation Incentive

- Schools who register for this field test will be eligible to receive the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) participation incentive of \$3.00 for each student test completed.
- Each content or subject area test consists of two parts, and both parts of the test must be completed to be eligible for the participation incentive. For example, a student who completes both parts of each assessment in ELA and Mathematics will earn the school district a participation incentive of \$6.00.

Preparation

- In preparation for using Chromebooks, please make sure you have set up Google Apps for Education and have enrolled all of your Chromebooks in the Device Manager. This will allow you to manage your devices including configuration and the INSIGHT testing software. If you have not already done so, visit Google to manage your Chrome devices: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/1289314?rd=2>.
- If you require support with setting up your Google Administrator account or enrolling Chromebooks, please contact Google, directly.

Note: Chrome device management is automatically available for Chrome devices purchased directly from

Just a reminder...

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Google or an authorized reseller. To manage Chrome devices from third parties, purchase Chrome device management separately from a Chrome Devices for Business and Education sales representative.

Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

The Kindergarten Entry Assessment is well underway. If your school or district is participating please remember the following:

- The KEA test window closes October 31, 2014.
- The Inter-rater Reliability (IRR) module (3 SCECHS) must be completed before entering data into the TS Gold System. Professional Development modules (12 SCECHS) can be completed later.
- If you are a district or building coordinator, please check with KEA Test Administrators to ensure they are able to complete their IRR as soon as possible.
- All students must be Pre-ID'd on the MDE Secure Site and then placed in a session Site by the approved BAA Secure Site user. Directions for both steps can be found at: www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining.

- **Webinar Invitation:** The webinar “Completing the First Checkpoint for Michigan’s KEA” presented October 16, 2014 at 4:00 pm was recorded and placed on the TS GOLD, teacher home page at https://www2.teachingstrategies.com/page/CC_StateMI.cfm
- **Parent Reporting–Arabic:** The English version of the Objectives for Development and Learning (ODL) is available for use during family conferencing. The ODL has been translated into a parallel Arabic version. KEA teachers can refer to the ODL in English and have parents follow along in Arabic. Both documents are available on the teacher home page.
- **Need assistance or support:** Email addresses, telephone contact information, and requests for on-site support for KEA Trainer/Coaches can be sent to baa@michigan.gov.

Recently Asked Questions

► **Technology and Online Testing**

I am a nonpublic school and plan on testing in spring 2015, do I have to submit an online waiver?

Yes, any nonpublic school that wishes to participate in the spring 2015 assessments and is not ready for online testing must submit an online waiver request. Guidance on how to submit online waiver request(s) for the administration of the assessments via paper/pencil at your school can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Online testing device requirements can be found at http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf.

I am a nonpublic school and want to administer the 11th grade test. Can I just do ACT?

Nonpublic schools still have the option to opt into Michigan's 11th grade assessment. This assessment still includes three portions: The ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys, and a Michigan summative component. Nonpublic schools that opt to participate in the 11th grade assessment will be included in data files reporting the results of all three portions of the assessment as they have in the past.

Which testing device do you recommend for administering the spring 2015 assessments?

Desktops, laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks can be used for the spring 2015 summative assessments, so long as these devices meet the minimum testing device requirements found at: http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf.

MDE does not recommend one particular type of device over another, but strongly suggests that the devices being used for testing are familiar to both students and staff prior to testing.

► **Students With Disabilities (SWD)**

How will the state summative assessment that a student with disabilities takes impact their certificate of completion or diploma?

Michigan does not place a performance level achievement requirement for state summative assessments on graduation or certificate of completion. Please remember that any guidelines governing certificate of completion are determined at the local level only. Please check local (district) policy regarding any such requirements.

If a student with a disability needs a paper/pencil version of the assessment, does this requirement need to be listed in the IEP?

Individual students requiring a paper/pencil version do not need to have it explicitly stated in the IEP. However, keep in mind that the reason for designating the student as needing a paper/pencil version should link back to a specified need as indicated in the IEP (based on his or her disability), or for those students for whom an online assessment creates an accessibility issue.

► *Prior Recently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently_Asked_Questions_470957_7.pdf.*