Spotlight

MICHIGAN Department of Education

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

November 6, 2014

Quick Links

- **Upcoming information on spring assessment...**

Reminders 🖥️

Recently Asked Questions

► *Sign up for Spotlight at* https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new. Under Student Assessment, select Spotlight.

🖥️ The computer icon highlights Spotlight articles that contain information tech coordinators also need to know.

Upcoming Information on Spring 2015 Assessment

The outside contractor who will be printing the paper/pencil Spring 2015 assessments has agreed to extend its project schedule by one week. As a result, MDE will extend the deadline for schools to opt for the paper/pencil waiver option to Friday, November 21, 2014. MDE will take the additional week to best prepare the information and guidance to schools on the Spring assessment, and will provide it to schools next week.

If you already have requested a paper/pencil waiver, but based on the 2015 test component information would like to withdraw your waiver request for one or more schools, please send an email request to BAA@michigan.gov with the subject line Withdraw Waiver Request. In the body of the email, provide district, school, and contact information. If you have additional questions, please call 877-560-8378, and select option 8.

Note: *Due to the cost concerns of preparing the separate online and paper/pencil test forms, no change requests will be accepted after the November 21, 2014, deadline date.*

Just a reminder...
Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

🖥️ Online Testing Server Capacity Clarification

As your schools make decisions regarding whether or not to request an online waiver, it is important to note that the online testing servers are provided and hosted by the online delivery vendor. In no way does the capacity of the State's systems impact the online testing performance. Our online delivery vendor is well equipped to support the increased demand involved with statewide testing. The vendor actively monitors their servers and increases the capacity as needed to handle the increased traffic and ensure a quality testing experience for all students. Schools should not request an online waiver based on their concern about the online delivery server capacity.

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.

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Just a reminder...
Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

💻 Online Assessment Device Requirement and Scheduling Considerations

Device requirements for Spring 2015 online delivery are published in MTRAx. The requirements were updated on September 15, 2014 and are not expected to change for the Spring 2015 test delivery. The device requirements are located at http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan Testing Device Requirements9-15-14.pdf.

When determining if you have sufficient devices to administer tests online, please consider the following:

- 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.

- Headphones are required for the listening portion of the English Language Arts (ELA) assessment, but not all students have to take the online ELA assessment at the same time, nor on the same day.

- Please note the requirement for external keyboards (paragraph 3 of the Device Requirements document). Without the external keyboard, the virtual keyboard that pops-up on the display screen will restrict the visibility of the item to which the student is responding. This could cause the student to overlook a portion of the item.

Note: *The number of sessions and recommended time to administer each session will be published in the Spring 2015 Guidance on Summative Assessments that will be provided to schools next week.*

ACT Update

ACT Test Administration Training Webcast is now available at http://www.act.org/aap/michigan/act.html.

Important Dates

November 2014

- October 20, 2014 to November 14, 2014 - Interim assessment iPad and Chromebook device field testing. Field test registration: https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall14-interim-ipadchromebook-field-test/.

- Open for comment - The Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Post-Administration Survey to collect Interim Assessment Coordinator feedback.

- Open for comment - Fall 2014 Fall Interim Assessment Technology Coordinator Survey to collect technical feedback.

December 2014

- Student pre-Identification opens for Spring 2015 ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys.

- WIDA materials will be automatically ordered based on your Pre-ID information.

January 2015

- Student pre-Identification opens for Spring 2015 Summative Assessments and MI-Access Grades 3-8 and 11.

- Material orders open for Summative and MI-Access grades 3–8 and 11, material orders for paper/pencil.

- Material orders open for ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys (will be done through ACT – not the Secure Site).

Recently Asked Questions

If I requested an Online Waiver for one or more schools in my district, and have since determined that some or all of those buildings are ready to test online, can I withdraw the waiver request?

The online waiver request window is open until November 21, 2014. If you determine by that date that you would like to withdraw your waiver request for one or more schools, please send an email request to baa@michigan.gov with the subject line Withdraw Waiver Request, providing the district and school information, as well as your contact information.

If you have additional questions regarding submission or withdrawal of the online waiver, please call **877-560-8378**, and select **option 8**.

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