

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of September 29, 2014

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Paper-Pencil Administration of Student Assessments Request

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. The Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration document has guidance on how to submit online waiver request(s) for the administration of the assessments via paper-pencil at your school.

An informational memo and the Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration Process and Procedures document can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Things to note:

- For information on technology readiness visit: <http://22itrig.org/>
- Schools that are administering online, but have individual students who need to use a Paper-Pencil form due to a disability or other reason, do not need to follow the Request for Paper-Pencil Administration process. The individual student requests will be handled through a materials ordering process as has been done in the past with other accommodations.
- Schools will need to submit the online waiver request(s) by November 7, 2014 in order to obtain the paper-pencil materials needed.
- A request for general assessments or Functional Independence (FI) assessments must be submitted separately.
- **The waiver request can only be submitted by a district administrator level user of the Secure Site.**

A [quick reference guide](#) for submitting online waivers can be found on the MDE website at www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining under the Quick References section.

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.

Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Support

- If you need assistance during the test window, contact the **TS Gold Help Desk at: 1-866-736-5913** or email: MIKEA@teachingstrategies.com.
- Now, in addition to the Help Desk, MDE has identified five trainer/coaches that are available to support KEA participants with the Fall 2014 Field Test. The KEA Help Desk (**1-866-736-5913**) or baa@michigan.gov can provide you with the names of individuals who can be contacted directly for email or telephone support and if needed will provide on-site assistance.

ACT College Entrance and Work Skills—News to Know this Week

10–6–2014:

- Establishment materials to arrive in schools this week
- ACT to send Test Coordinator an email reminder of the Establishment window (10/6 – 10/17)
- The Accommodations training webcast becomes available—includes ACT-Approved Accommodations, State-Allowed Accommodations, and Locally Approved Accommodations

English Learners (EL) Records Retention and Transfer

The MDE has received a high number of reports from districts not receiving permanent records for transfer students who are or may be English learners (ELs) in a timely manner. An important reminder was sent in a memorandum to make sure that all appropriate information is provided in permanent records, and that permanent records are requested and transferred in a timely manner.

You can access this EL memorandum at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Records_Retention_469587_7.pdf.

WIDA Professional Development Workshops and Trainings

Data Analysis: Focus on the Classroom

December 4 (repeat session December 5)

8:30–3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This 1-day workshop will focus on utilizing WIDA assessment data to improve classroom instruction. It is strongly recommended that grade level, school, or district teams attend this workshop. An ideal team would include general education teachers from across the content areas of mathematics, science, social studies, English language arts, as well as English as a second language educators. Teams with this makeup will aid schools in addressing academic language across all of WIDA's English Language Development standards. To register for this event, please send the following information to Cristina Rodriguez, rodriguezc@michigan.gov:

- Team members' names
- Grade(s) currently teaching
- Content area(s) currently teaching

Administering the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs

December 9

8:30–3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative ACCESS for ELLs. To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Administering the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

December 10

8:30–3:30 PM

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

This workshop will give new WIDA test administrators an opportunity to learn about how to administer the summative Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. This assessment is designed to assess your English learners (ELs) who are also students with disabilities. If you do not expect to administer this assessment to any students in your school you do not need to attend this workshop.

To register for this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov.

Secure Site Training Materials

There is now a website (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) for Secure Site training materials that include both documents and Camtasia videos. We will be adding more information to this web page as we develop it.

Continue on for **Reminders** and **Recently Asked Questions**

Just a reminder...

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Registration Now Open—iPad and Chromebook Testing Window

Registration is now open for iPads and Chromebooks at <https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall14-interim-ipadchromebook-field-test/>. This testing window runs from October 20 – November 14, 2014. 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.

Schools that have participated in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test (Windows or Mac desktops and laptops only) 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.

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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.

Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Testing—Desktop and Laptop Window

The Fall 2014 Interim Assessment testing window for desktops and laptops (Windows or MAC) is open through October 17, 2014. Your school district is still eligible to receive the TRIG incentive funds of

Recently Asked Questions

What standards are our students being assessed on in Spring 2015?

General Assessments:

Michigan's education standards in English language arts and mathematics were adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in June 2010. Michigan's standards in social studies and science were adopted by the SBE in 2007.

Lesson plans and curriculum are developed locally by educators, building and district experts, and staff.

Michigan's academic standards serve to outline learning expectations for Michigan's students and are intended to guide local curriculum development. They should be used as a framework by schools for curriculum development with the curriculum itself prescribing instructional resources, methods, progressions, and additional knowledge valued by the local community.

These content standards provide a platform for state assessments, which are used to measure how well schools are providing opportunities for all students to learn the content outlined by the standards.

Information on Michigan standards for all content areas are located on the Michigan Department of Education website at <http://www.michigan.gov/academicstandards>.

Alternate Assessments:

The MI-Access assessments will be available in the spring of 2015 for students whose Individual Education Program (IEP) Team has determined that it is not appropriate for them to participate in the state's general education assessment. These assessments will continue to be based on Michigan's extended content standards.

Michigan's extended content standards for students participating in one of Michigan's alternate assessments are located at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_28463---,00.html.

Will my students get better scores if we stick with paper-pencil?

Not necessarily. Schools that have been piloting the MEAP the past number of years online have had very positive experiences with online assessment.

Will the paper-pencil forms for math and English language arts be similar to what we've seen in the past?

No. As we are moving to a new math and ELA assessment the paper-pencil forms will have a different look and feel than in past years. Students will be transitioning regardless if assessments are administered online or paper-pencil.