MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SPOTLIGHT

MICHIGAN Department of Education

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT

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ASSESSMENT NEWS

Now Available: List of Important Dates for SAT©, PSAT, WIN Work Readiness

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has posted the Spring 2027 SAT©, PSAT, and WIN Lists of Important Dates. The following PDFs are available on the Assessment Calendars web page (www.michigan.gov/mde-assessmentcalendar):

- Spring 2027 SAT List of Important Dates (https://go.mi.gov/2trrr3717)
- Spring 2027 PSAT List of Important Dates (https://go.mi.gov/u45bb3720)
- Spring 2027 WIN List of Important Dates (https://go.mi.gov/9nkoc3718)

These lists outline key test administration dates and the tasks to be completed before, during, and after the Spring 2027 SAT, PSAT, and WIN administrations.

Google Calendar versions are also available. An updated combined Excel file will be posted soon. Watch Spotlight for updates.

Last week, the Spring 2027 M-STEP and MI-Access List of Important Dates documents were released. Read the original announcement in the October 22, 2026, Spotlight newsletter (https://go.mi.gov/wn1wv3714). WIDA dates are also available on the Assessment Calendars web page (www.michigan.gov/mde-assessmentcalendar).

ASSESSMENT NEWS

Benchmark Assessment Application Window Moved to January 4–29

The 2026–27 Benchmark Assessment Reporting and Funding Application in NexSys will be open **January 4–29, 2027**, instead of November 6–December 4, 2026.

Districts seeking benchmark assessment funding or reporting on local benchmarks should access NexSys during the revised application window.

For additional information about benchmark assessment requirements and funding eligibility, please review the updated 2026-27 Benchmark Assessments Fact Sheet and FAQ (https://go.mi.gov/k59bi3436).

ASSESSMENT NEWS

EMBARGOED 2025-26 School Index Reports and Data Files Now Available for Preview on MI School Data

Embargoed 2025-26 Michigan School Index accountability reports and data files are **now available** for preview to authorized MI School Data (www.mischooldata.org) users. Schools have a **courtesy window of 8 days** to review accountability results before the results are publicly released.

- **Preview Window:** Wednesday, October 28 – Wednesday, November 4, 2026
- **Public Release:** Accountability results will be publicly released on MI School Data shortly after the preview window closes. Embargoed results must not be shared until the public release of MI School Data occurs.

To get started, review the **Resource Toolkit for the 2025-26 School Index preview window.** Supporting materials for the School Index are described and linked in the toolkit above. These resources are also available on the School Index Resources web page (www.mi.gov/mde-schoolindex).

Accessing Reports and Files

To access School Index reports:

1. Navigate to the **"K-12 Grade"** menu
2. Select the **"School Accountability"** submenu
3. Click **"School Index"**

To access accountability data files:

1. Navigate to the **"K-12 Grade"** menu
2. Select the **"School Accountability"** submenu
3. Click **"Accountability Downloads"**

Please refer to the Accountability Access and Preview Instructions for help obtaining appropriate access to MI School Data if you do not already have such privileges.

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ASSESSMENT NEWS

School Index Q&A Session

There will be one Q&A session held during the preview window. A brief update on the 2025-26 School Index results will be provided, followed by the opportunity for questions. Office hours will last up to one hour or until all content and questions are covered. Use the links below at the time of the event to join or add it to your calendar.

- **1:00-2:00 PM, Monday, November 2, 2026**
  - Download the event to your calendar (.ics file)
  - Click here to join the meeting
  - Call in (audio only): +1 248-509-0316,764200464#

Questions about the Michigan School Index can be emailed to mde-accountability@michigan.gov or you may call 877-560-8378; choose option 1 and ask to speak to Accountability Staff.

COLLEGE BOARD NEWS

Reminder: Required Secure Site Roles for College Board Access

Beginning in spring 2027, access to the College Board State Data Management System (SDMS) and Test Day Toolkit (TDTK) systems must be requested through the OEAA Secure Site (http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). The Secure Site is accessible through MiLogin for Business (https://go.mi.gov/10r2d3646).

All SAT and PSAT Coordinators must have **SDMS/TDTK Test Coordinator** Secure Site access to ensure correct permissions are in place ahead of spring testing.

Reminder: Users requesting access must log in to the OEAA Secure Site (http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), verify their contact information, and request the appropriate **SDMS/TDTK Test Coordinator role**. Once approved at the district or school administrator level, College Board will send account setup information. Role creation in College Board systems begins in February 2027. See the SAT and PSAT Important Dates documents available on the Assessment Calendars web page (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/assessment-calendars/).

Michigan SAT Suite K12 Delivery Specialist

Throughout the 2026-27 school year, Meredith McKelvey, Michigan's K-12 Delivery Specialist, is available to provide direct support to district and school coordinators with:

- systems access and technical assistance
- training support
- general guidance for test administration activities

Meredith can be reached by email at mmckelvey@collegeboard.org. Please continue to contact customer service (listed below) for all questions related to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).

College Board Contact Information

- **Call**: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)
- **Email**: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org
- **Web:** State Partnerships: Contact Us – SAT Suite | College Board

WIN LEARNING NEWS

Reminder: Required Secure Site Roles for WIN Career Readiness System Users

A new WIN Career Readiness System (CRS) Test Coordinator role is required for Spring 2027 setup and administration in the WIN CRS. This role, which is requested through the OEAA Secure Site (http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), allows districts and schools to manage CRS setup, assign users, and oversee testing.

Reminder: This new role may appear in the Secure Site under different naming variations depending on the type of entity:

- District WIN CRS Test Coordinator
- Public School WIN CRS Test Coordinator
- Nonpublic School WIN CRS Test Coordinator

These are not separate roles; they simply reflect how the WIN CRS Test Coordinator role is applied to different organizations.

All requests must continue to be submitted in the OEAA Secure Site (http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), which is accessed through MiLogin for Business (https://go.mi.gov/10r2d3646). Once approved, WIN Learning will issue CRS login credentials when spring 2027 system setup begins in February (see the Important Dates documents available on the Assessment Calendars web page (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/assessment-calendars/).

For more information, refer to the October 22 edition of Spotlight (https://go.mi.gov/wn1wv3714).

WIN LEARNING NEWS

WIN Wednesday and Training Schedules Now Available

Mark your calendars now for the 2027 virtual WIN Wednesday sessions, which are now available on the Michigan Merit Examination MME webpage (https://go.mi.gov/98ypp3213). WIN Wednesday sessions begin in March 2027 and continue weekly through the end of April. Some sessions will focus on specific topics to support test preparation, while others will serve as open office hours for questions.

The full WIN Wednesday schedule and session links are available on the WIN Wednesday Schedule page (https://go.mi.gov/0hg6p3716).

Reminder: The WIN Learning training webinar schedule is also available on the WIN Learning Training Webinar Schedule page (https://go.mi.gov/ng4qm3431).

Training webinars begin in January 2027 with introductory sessions for District Assessment Coordinators and Building Assessment Coordinators. Additional sessions for Technology Coordinators and school testing staff will continue through March, covering preparation for testing, online portal use, reporting tools, and additional system functionalities.

WIN Learning Contact Information

- WIN Learning Support: support@winlearning.com or 888-717-9461 (option 2)
- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Tech Support: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov or 877-560-8378 (option 2)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Developing Quality Classroom Summative Assessments

Design Assessments That Truly Measure Student Learning
Designed for teams and individuals

Dates: November 9–10, 2026 and December 7, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: 1980 N. College Road, Mason, MI 48854
Cost: $500 per person, including materials and lunch for all sessions

Learn more and register (https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/developing-quality-classroom-summative-assessments/)

More information: Read the original announcement in the September 24, 2026, Spotlight newsletter (https://go.mi.gov/ksyoy3443#page=13)

MERA Fall Conference: Education Policy, Data, and Assessment Updates

Designed for educators, administrators, and assessment and accountability staff

Dates: November 23–24, 2026
Location: Bavarian Inn Lodge, 1 Covered Bridge Lane, Frankenmuth, MI
Registration is open for the MERA Fall 2026 Conference. Join colleagues to explore education policy, data, and assessment topics affecting Michigan schools.
Topics include:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) use in education
- K–12 reading law
- Legislative changes and their impact on education
- MI School Data
- State assessment and accountability

View conference details and register (https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mera-fall-2026-conference)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

New to WIDA? Register for an Overview Webinar for Grades 1-12

WIDA ACCESS Online for Test Administrators (Grades 1-12)
Date: Monday November 30, 2026
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Updated Registration Link: 2026-27 WIDA Webinar Registration (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc09XFTSeJp5mLDeJ3LHRM1Y5QtoBPY7GmBYj_--jj2CasRHQ/viewform)

Note: This webinar is not a substitute for the required assessment courses Test Administrators will complete in the WIDA Secure Portal.

State Assessment & Accountability Updates with the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Ted Scott Campus – Wayne County Community College District 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville, MI 48111
Cost: Free

Join the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) and Wayne RESA for updates on Michigan's state assessment programs, school accountability systems, and balanced assessment. This event is designed for assessment coordinators and administrators.

Learn more and register (https://go.mi.gov/zau8u3553)

More information: Read the original announcement in the October 1, 2026, Spotlight newsletter (https://go.mi.gov/7jq213487#page=12)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

New to WIDA? Register for an Overview Webinar for Kindergarten

Exploring WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2026
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Updated Registration Link: 2026-27 WIDA Webinar Registration (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc09XFTSeJp5mLDeJ3LHRM1Y5QtoBPY7GmBYj_--jj2CasRHQ/viewform)

Note: This webinar is not a substitute for the required assessment courses Test Administrators will complete in the WIDA Secure Portal.

67th Annual Michigan School Testing Conference

Dates: February 9–11, 2027
Location: Sheraton Ann Arbor Hotel
Registration and event information: Michigan School Testing Conference (https://www.mstconference.org/)
More information: Read the original announcement in the September 17, 2026, Spotlight newsletter (https://go.mi.gov/4n8wu3391#page=6)

Free Training Helps Individualized Education Program Teams Assign Alternate Standards

Format: Free, self-paced course through Michigan Virtual
Audience: Intermediate school district and local district educators serving on Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams
Assigning Alternate Standards for Instruction and Assessment helps IEP teams decide when to use alternate content expectations and MI-Access.
Access the course: Visit the Michigan Virtual Professional Learning Portal (https://plp.michiganvirtual.org/PublicWelcome.aspx). Open the Course Catalog and search for "Assigning Alternate Standards for Instruction and Assessment."
More information: Read the original announcement (https://go.mi.gov/ksyoy3443#page=9)

IMPORTANT DATES

The Assessment Calendars web page (www.michigan.gov/mde-assessmentcalendar) provides easy access to important state assessment dates. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) offers calendars in Excel, PDF, and Google Calendar formats, making it convenient to view and use them in the format that works best for your needs.

October & November 2026

Date	Assessment/Task	End Date
Ongoing	**WIDA Screener Cycle** I Open	Ongoing
Ongoing	**M-STEP, WIDA ACCESS, SAT, PSAT-related assessments, WIN Work Readiness, MI-Access (FI)** Online Waiver Window in the OEAA Secure Site — request waiver to administer paper/pencil assessments	Friday, November 13, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.

REMINDERS

State Assessment Applications: What to Use and When

Are you new to administering state assessments? Are you an assessment coordinator?

Assessment coordinators use several state and vendor applications before, during, and after testing. A new resource from the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) explains which application to use, the tasks completed in each, and how to obtain access. You can view the Assessment Applications Needed for Administration of State Assessments resource on the OEAA Assessment Applications page (https://go.mi.gov/ybxbm3665).

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact the OEAA at mde-oeaa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378.

CONTACT INFO

OEAA Phone Tree Options

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues, **call 877-560-8378** (select the appropriate option):

- **Option 1:** For inquiries related to state assessment policy; the OEAA Secure Site; administration of the M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics; and Accountability Reporting
- **Option 2:** For inquiries related to the SAT, PSAT, or WIN Work Readiness testing:
  - **Option 1:** eligibility to test and the OEAA Secure Site
  - **Option 2:** administration of the College Board assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)
  - **Option 3:** administration of the WIN Work Readiness skills test
- **Option 3:** For inquiries related to WIDA, the English Language Learner assessment; Call 866-276-7735 for assistance with the WIDA Screener and the WIDA Secure Portal
- **Option 4:** For all other calls
- **Option 5:** To report known unethical testing practices by a school on any state assessment
- **Option 6:** To repeat these options

Subscribe to MDE Newsletters

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and information from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). **Subscribe** (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new) to the *Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability*, *MDE Official Communications*, and *MICIP Continuous Communication* newsletters.

- Archive for *Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability* (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)
- Archive for *MDE Memos* (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information/memos)
- Archive for *MICIP Continuous Communication* (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/school-performance-supports/micip/micip-continuous-communication)

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