Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

May 28, 2015

Important Dates and Reminders

Key: 💻 information Tech Coordinators also need to know

🧩 supports and accommodations information

We are Happy to Take Your MI-Access FI Expressing Ideas Returns Today!

Just a reminder: if you have *MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) Expressing Ideas* assessments completed but have not yet sent them back, please use one of your return kit labels to return these answer documents ahead of your other returns. Having these materials returned as soon as possible will help as we amass enough data to use in the standard setting process. Completing the standard setting process in a timely manner ensures that reporting is also turned around to you in a timely manner.

Thank you for your assistance and your flexibility regarding these returns, and a *big* "***Thank You***" to those who have already sent in your returns.
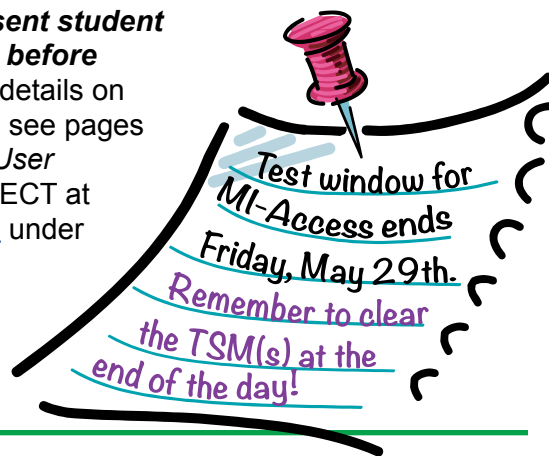
MI-Access Testing Window Closes Friday, May 29th!

Please remember that the MI-Access testing window closes on Friday, May 29, 2015. This will be the last day to administer any level of the MI-Access assessments.

Functional Independence

- **ONLINE:** Schools with online testers should remember to clear the TSM(s) at the end of the day on Friday. ***It is important that all response servers have uploaded any unsent student test responses to DRC before the end of the day.*** For details on how to perform this task, see pages 119–121 of *Technology User Guide* available on eDIRECT at https://mi.drcedirect.com under *Documents*.

(Continued on next page)

Test window for MI-Access ends Friday, May 29th. Remember to clear the TSM(s) at the end of the day!

► *Sign up for Spotlight at:* https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new.
Enter your email address and select Spotlight under Student Assessment.

- **PAPER/PENCIL:** Schools with paper/pencil testers must ship test materials to Measurement, Inc., the scoring vendor, by June 5, 2015 in order to avoid late fees. The following are needed in order to return test materials and can be ordered from the Secure Site Additional Material Order window:

  ▶ Answer Document Header Sheets

  ▶ FedEx Airbills

  ▶ Scorable Return Labels

  ▶ Non-Scorable Return Labels

  ▶ School Return Envelope

  ▶ Class/Group ID Sheet (optional)

  ▶ Dividers and Stickers

Participation and Supported Independence (P/SI)

We do recognize that some classes will conclude their Participation and/or Supported Independence level assessments on Friday, but still need time to transfer scores from the scoring documents to the online answer document.

The MI-Access P/SI online answer document portal will remain open to accept the transfer of these scores through Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 11:59 PM. **Please**

note: Scoring documents do not get returned and are not scorable. **ALL** responses must be entered using the online answer document portal.

Online Preliminary Reporting - UPDATE

The Spring 2015 preliminary reports provide an initial view of how students performed on their M-STEP test this year.

Appropriate Use of Data

The information in these reports is preliminary, raw score data, and may adjust up to the time final results are reported. This report should not be used for any high stakes decisions (e.g., grade or course placement, curricular decisions, teacher evaluations).

The preliminary report data are embargoed. These reports are for internal use only, and are not to be shared or made public.

Grade-level raw score data will be available approximately two weeks after the end of each grade-specific test window (*see Table 1 below*).

Table 1

Assessment	Grade	Content Areas	Online Testing Window	Estimated Availability Week of
M-STEP	5 and 8	ELA, Math, Social Studies	April 13 to May 1	May 18 - 22
M-STEP	4 and 7	ELA, Math, Science	April 27 to May 15	June 1 - 5
M-STEP	3 and 6	ELA and Math	May 11 to June 5	June 22 - 26
M-STEP	11	All subjects	April 13 to June 5	June 22 - 26
MI-Access	ALL	All subjects	April 13 to May 29	June 15 - 19

What's Reported – About the Data

- Only raw score data for **students who tested online** will be included.

- The raw score data are reported as points earned out of points possible.

- **Note:** Scale scores and proficiency levels will be included in the final reports this fall.

- Preliminary raw score data are **not** intended for use in making high-stakes decisions.

- Students will appear on the preliminary report in each content area as their raw score data record is completed for that content area.

  ▶ E.g., Since social studies tests contained multiple choice (MC) items only, most students will appear on the social studies report.

  ELA and mathematics tests contained technology-enhanced and constructed-response items in addition to MC items. Since scoring is still in progress for some of these items, a student's raw score data record may not be complete yet in these content areas. **Students will *continue* to be added to the report as their raw score data record for each content area is complete.**

- Student tests that are flagged as Prohibited Behavior, Non-standard Accommodation, Testing Out-of-Level, or Testing Irregularity are considered invalid and will not be included on preliminary reports.

- Home-schooled students are not included in the preliminary reports.

- Non-public schools will not appear on the district reports.

  ▶ Summary statistics are suppressed for groups of students fewer than 10 due to the instability or lack of reliability of statistics based on low sample sizes.

▶ Changes to student demographics and/or class group codes made on the Secure Site or MSDS after the initial preliminary reports become available (*see Table 1 on previous page*) will not be reflected in these reports.

Preliminary reports are available through the Secure Site at https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/. Secure Site access is only available to district and school employees who require the information contained on the site as a part of their user role and permissions. You must have a MEIS login in order to access the Secure Site. For instructions on how to obtain a MEIS login, go to http://www.mi.gov/securesitetraining and click How do I obtain access to the Secure Site?

We will provide updates to the preliminary reporting status in future editions of the Spotlight as raw score data for online testing within each grade level is completed.

🖥 M-STEP Administration and Technology Surveys

As the first M-STEP online administration testing window is drawing to a close, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to all of the staff and students who worked very hard to prepare for and administer the online assessment! As a result of all of every one of those individuals' hard work, this was a very successful statewide online assessment administration!!

MDE is very interested in learning more from teachers and administrators who were involved in the M-STEP online administration this spring regarding what went well and where there were challenges in preparing for and/or administering the online assessment. We would like to collect feedback from teachers and administrators involved in the M-STEP online administration through a short survey that can be accessed at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstep-online-administration.

MDE will be using the information obtained from responses to the *2014–15 M-STEP Online Administration Survey* to inform and improve practices for the Spring 2016 M-STEP online administration. *Please complete and submit the survey no later than Friday, June 12, 2015.*

Earlier this week a survey was sent out to technology coordinators by MDE's Division of Accountability Services to also obtain feedback from individuals specifically involved in the technology component of the M-STEP online preparation and administration. If you were involved in providing technology coordination and/or support for the M-STEP online administration, and did not receive the email message, this survey can be accessed at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M-STEPTechSurvey.

The technology survey will be open through June 5, 2015.

Student Survey for M-STEP ONLINE

Spring 2015 was the first roll-out of the online M-STEP and the Michigan Department of Education is seeking feedback from students. Student responses will be important for the future planning and development of M-STEP. The Student Survey will require about 10 minutes to complete and can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstepstudentsurvey.

Although class participation will improve participation rates, it is possible for students to access the survey using the same link from their phone or home computer. We appreciate any support schools can provide to encourage student participation and we thank you in advance. *Please have students complete and submit the survey no later than Friday, June 12, 2015.*

Last Date for All Interested Districts to Register for KEA Participation

The last date to register for Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) participation is **August 15, 2015**.

District Registration Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2DQS37

Districts should note that although committed districts will be required to administer the KEA in the fall between September 8–October 31, 2015, they also have the option to administer the KEA an additional two times throughout the year in order to best show growth across the KEA Widely Held Expectations.

Reminder . . .

Districts interested in administering the voluntary 2015–16 Fall KEA should register by the dates below for the following opportunities:

Optional Professional Learning Opportunities (Kindergarten teachers from districts who have registered to administer the KEA this fall are eligible for a stipend of $250/day)

- **Register by May 29**
  - ▶ June 16/17: Grand Rapids, Kent ISD (Max # of participants: 50)
  - ▶ June 17/18: Novi, Novi Middle School (Max # of participants: 30)
- **Register by June 30***
  - ▶ July 21/22: Marquette, Marquette Alger RESA (Max # of participants: 60)
  - ▶ July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD (Max # of participants: 35)

- **Register by July 31***

  ▶ August 10/11: Mason, Ingham ISD (Max # of participants: 60)

  ▶ August 12/13: Traverse City, Traverse Bay Area ISD (Max # of participants: 60)

* Interested educators traveling more than 50 miles one way from their home who need hotel accommodations for their selected location must register for the professional learning event by the date below, otherwise MDE cannot guarantee lodging:

* Register by June 8th

For more information about the Michigan KEA please go to www.michigan.gov/kea.

WIDA W-APT Pre-K Cycle Open

The Pre-K Cycle for the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is now open in the MDE Secure Site. This cycle is reserved for students who are enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2015–16 school year. Pre-K students only need the Speaking and Listening domains administered.

Scores for all students taking the W-APT must be entered into the MDE Secure Site regardless of how well they score. **Please note:** entering W-APT scores into the MDE Secure Site does not automatically identify a student as an English Learner (EL). Designations for student demographics such as this are managed through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). Educators should refer to the Office of Field Service's (OFS) *Entrance and Exit Protocol* when making a decision about identifying students as EL. Please call OFS for information on the most current *Entrance and Exit Protocol* at 517-373-6066 or go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40078---,00.html.

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SAT Corner

Key Content Changes

In the previous installments of the SAT Corner, we outlined eight key changes to the redesigned SAT– and highlighted *Relevant Words in Context* and *Essay Analyzing a Source*. Today we'd like to focus on another one of the eight key changes to the SAT: *Math that Matters Most*.

Math that Matters Most

The new SAT test will focus in depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Heart of Algebra, and Passport to Advanced Math. Problem Solving and Data Analysis is about being quantitatively literate. It includes using ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science, and career contexts. The Heart of Algebra focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems, which help students develop key powers of abstraction. Passport to Advanced Math focuses on students' familiarity with more complex equations and the manipulation they require.

Current research shows that these areas most contribute to readiness for college and career training. They're used extensively in a wide range of majors and careers. In addition to these areas, the SAT and PSAT-related assessments will include questions on other topics in math, including the kinds of geometric and trigonometric skills that are most relevant to college and careers. Learn more about the Math Test at https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-assessments/practice/math.

Key Content Changes Link: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-assessments/exam-changes/key-content-changes

Practice Opportunities – Khan Academy Partnership

Additionally, in this installment of the Spotlight's SAT Corner, we'd like to provide information about Khan Academy and the practice opportunities available to Michigan students this summer.

In 2014, Khan Academy and the College Board announced a landmark partnership to provide free, world-class test practice for all students. Beginning next month, all students will have the opportunity to practice for the redesigned SAT® using Khan Academy's online tools, including diagnostic quizzes, full-length practice tests, interactive problems, and personalized practice recommendations. Students will also receive instant feedback on their answers so they can see their progress and make the most of their study time.

Khan Academy is a nonprofit that provides free online materials and resources to support personalized education for learners of all ages. Khan Academy serves to inspire, instruct, and guide users' learning. Their learning resources include practice exercises, instructional videos, and dashboard analytics designed to empower learners inside and outside of the classroom to study at their own pace. The learning experience adapts to each individual, helps them to see their progress and goals, creates personalized recommendations about what to learn next, and motivates them to master the skills they seek.

In the next installment of the Spotlight, look out for more details on the free, personalized, and interactive Khan Academy resources, as well as other SAT practice resources that Michigan students and educators can benefit from this summer.

Khan Academy Partnership Link: https://www.khanacademy.org/sat

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Important Dates and 📌 Reminders

Approaching Deadlines!

MI-Access

- **May 29, 2015:**
  - ▶ MI-Access testing window ends 🖥️
  - ▶ eDIRECT is available for District and Building Coordinators to manage test sessions, set individual student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets. Supports and accommodations must be selected in eDIRECT before printing test tickets for the applicable students. **Printed test tickets are SECURE materials.**

KEA

- **May 29, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in June trainings
  - ▶ June 16/17: Grand Rapids
  - ▶ June 17/18: Novi

June 2015

M-STEP

- **June 1, 2015—Grades 3 and 6:** Deadline for additional paper/pencil materials ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*

  Check now to make sure you have the necessary return materials to ensure return shipments of test materials can be made by the June 10th shipping deadline.

- **June 5, 2015:**
  - ▶ M-STEP testing window ends
  - ▶ eDIRECT is available for District and Building Coordinators to manage test sessions, set individual student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets. Supports and accommodations must be selected in eDIRECT before printing test tickets for the applicable students. **Printed test tickets are SECURE materials.**

- **Now – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP technology survey is open at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M-STEPTechSurvey

- **Wednesday, June 10, 2015:** The last day to ship grades 3 and 6 paper/pencil test materials to the scoring vendor, Measurement, Inc., *without penalty*. See the paper/pencil materials shipping dates table in the *Spring 2015 Testing Schedule* located at www.michigan.gov/baa.

  Make sure you have the necessary materials to ensure shipments can be made by the deadline.

- **Now – June 12, 2015:** M-STEP online administration survey is open at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstep-online-administration

- **Now – June 12, 2015:** M-STEP online student survey is open at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstepstudentsurvey

- **June 15, 2015:** *Tentative* deadline for the *Accountable Students and Test Verification* window for schools to enter Class/Group Codes for Final Reports.

MME

- **Week of June 22, 2015:** ACT High School and District Reports arrive in schools

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Important Dates and Reminders

MI-Access

- **June 30, 2015:** Deadline for accepting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception applications. Applications are completely electronic and are available through the Secure Site. Districts that already have an approved 1% exception application from the 2012–13 or 2013–14 school years need not re-apply.

June/July 2015

KEA

- **June 30, 2015*:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in July trainings
  - ► July 21/22: Marquette
  - ► July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie
- **July 31, 2015*:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in August trainings
  - ► August 10/11: Lansing
  - ► August 12/13: Traverse City

*Interested educators traveling more than 50 miles one way from their home who need hotel accommodations for their selected location must register for the professional learning event by the date below, otherwise MDE cannot guarantee lodging:

> *Register by **June 8, 2015** (if lodging is needed for the July or August professional learning sessions)

2015 DAS Fall Conferences - SAVE THE DATE!

The 2015 DAS Fall Conferences for Assessment and Accountability will be held on 4 different dates at 4 locations throughout the state:

- **August 20, 2015** — Lansing Convention Center, Lansing, MI
- **August 25, 2015** — Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI
- **August 27, 2015** — Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
- **September 1, 2015** — Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI

SCECHs will be offered.

Keep watching the Spotlight and special communicatons for more information on how to register, accommodations, program details, and more! We look forward to seeing you!

Class/Group Codes

Class/Group Codes are a way districts and schools can designate user-defined reporting groups of students. These four-digit codes can be assigned to students from the Secure Site. Please see sections *8.2 Update Individual Student Records* and *8.3 Mass Updates* in the *Secure Site Procedure and User Manual* for information on how to assign Class/Group Codes.

- **Preliminary Reports:** Class/Group Codes that are in the Secure Site will be reflected in the Preliminary Reports when the reports first become available. Updates made after the initial release of Preliminary Reports will not be reflected in the Preliminary Reports.

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- **Final Reports:** Schools have until the end of the *Accountable Students and Test Verification* window (tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2015) to enter Class/Group Codes for Final Reports.

Reports will not use eDIRECT test session information. eDIRECT Test sessions are solely for the purpose of grouping students for test administration and are unrelated to reporting. If a school or district wants to create a user-defined grouping of students for reporting purposes, then a Class/Group Code must be used. For example, a school might want to group all students in a particular class or students who are participating in a special program together for reporting purposes.

►To access previous Spotlight editions, go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,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.