



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2017

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education 

SUBJECT: Three-Dimensional Science Performance Assessments (3DSPA)
Project Development

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would like to announce the creation and availability of ten new three-dimensional science performance tasks, which can be downloaded via the ZE Folder in Illuminate or at the following website: <http://3dsciassessment.weebly.com/>. These performance tasks were created as part of the Three-Dimensional Science Performance Assessments (3DSPA) project funded as a part of the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG)-Statewide Activity.

The intra-Michigan Consortium through Wexford Missaukee ISD, grant fiscal agent, collaborated with the Central Michigan Science Mathematics Technology Center (SMTC), the Michigan Math and Science Centers Network, Gratiot Isabella RESD, and the Michigan Department of Education to meet the mission of developing assessment tasks that align with the new Michigan Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards that are freely accessible by teachers for implementation in grades 3-12. The 3DSPA performance tasks take place in a teacher's classroom to compliment performance expectations they are teaching. A performance task could be an assessment task with multiple components that measures students' understanding in three dimensions. Students are actively engaged in scientific practices to explain a phenomenon embedded in a scenario. Certain science and engineering practices have dimensions and progressions that can only be fully expressed within social context such as:

- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Constructing Explanations
- Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence

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The SMTC continues to collaborate with the MDE regarding the development of 3DSPA tasks in relationship to Michigan standardized state testing. The SMTC collaboration extends throughout the state with additional organizations such as MI Sci PLN. Presentations have been provided to over 200 educators at the Michigan Association of Computer Users for Learning (MACUL) and MSTA conferences.

For additional questions related to the 3DSPA project please contact one of the team members at:

- Darcy McMahon: mcmah1ds@cmich.edu
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For more information on TRIG and other Education Technology Initiatives contact the Office P-20 Data and Information Management, Education Technology Unit at (517) 241-3629 or visit our website at www.techplan.org.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance