



Announcements from Assessment & Accountability - located within the Division of Accountability Services (DAS) - Week of September 8, 2014.

- 1) Dates Finalized for Spring 2015 College Entrance and Work Skills Assessments
- 2) Spring 2015 Content and Grade Level Information - The English language arts assessment consists of reading and writing, at each grade 3 – 8, and 11. This is a change from prior years when writing was assessed only at grades 4, 7, and 11. See additional information below.
- 3) **Important Update** to the Spring 2015 Testing Schedule is Now Available
- 4) School Districts will earn a \$3.00 minimum participation incentive per completed test for the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test
- 5) REMINDER: Pre-ID your students **NOW** for the Fall 2014 K-2 and High School Interim Assessments in the Secure Site
- 6) WIDA Updates
- 7) Ensure Access to Important Information – Review/Update the Educational Entity Master (EEM)

1) Dates Finalized for Spring 2015 College Entrance and Work Skills Assessments

- The initial test date for ACT Plus Writing will be March 3, makeup date will be March 17, and the accommodations testing window will be March 3 – 17.
- For WorkKeys, the initial test date will be March 4, makeup date March 18, and the accommodations testing window will be March 4 – 18.
- Test center establishment packets are being sent by ACT to High School principals and will arrive in schools September 29 – October 3.

2) Spring 2015 Content and Grade Level Information

Students in grades 3 – 8 and 11 will be assessed on Michigan’s current content standards in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies.

Since Michigan moved from fall testing in grades 3 – 9 to spring testing, students will be tested on content learned in the current school year versus prior year student knowledge. This move necessitated a change in the tested grades for science and social studies. Beginning with 2015, students in grades 4, 7, and 11 will be tested in science, while students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be tested in social studies. This is a change from last year.

The English language arts assessment consists of reading and writing, at each grade 3 – 8, and 11. This is a change from prior years when writing was assessed only at grades 4, 7, and 11. Mathematics will continue to be assessed at grades 3 – 8 and 11.

3) Important Update to the Spring 2015 Testing Schedule is Now Available

The update is located on the Michigan Department of Education Assessment Home page or by clicking http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_Testing_Schedule_Update_464310_7.pdf

4) School Districts will earn a \$3.00 minimum participation incentive per completed test for the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test

Even better news, although the interim assessment field test window begins Monday, September 15, testing does not have to begin Monday and there is still time for your district or school to participate.

Funding is being made available through the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG), furthering the TRIG goal to support and build state capacity in technology.

Additional Information and How to Participate in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test for K-2 and High Schools

- Schools are invited to register to participate in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test (September 15 - October 17, 2014). This field test is an important part of a high quality test development process and can be valuable to schools, students and teachers.

Reasons to Participate

- The Fall 2014 Field Test provides an opportunity for schools to test bandwidth capacity and student scheduling for online testing, prior to the state summative assessment to be administered in the spring 2015.
- Students will have the benefit of taking an online assessment in a low-stakes situation and practice using common online assessment tools (calculators, highlighters, etc.)
- Earn TRIG incentive funds in the amount of a \$3.00 minimum per 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 a minimum of \$6.00. Final amount to be based on the total number of completed tests throughout the state.
- Teachers will receive an invitation to provide feedback and recommendations for improvement.

Districts may have several schools participate in one or more subjects and grade levels. Each participating school must individually register. Content areas to be field tested include:

- English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for grades K, 1, and 2.
- High school science courses (Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics).
- High school social studies courses (US History & Geography, World History & Geography, Civics, and Economics).
- If Earth Science high school courses are offered to 8th grade students, schools may consider offering the Earth Science interim assessment to these 8th grade students.

Technology Considerations:

- Schools may use Windows or Mac desktops and laptops to administer the field test assessments. The field test window is September 15, 2014 through October 17, 2014. Schools may administer the field test assessments any time within this five-week test window.
- **NEW** - MDE is also seeking schools to administer the field tests on iPads and Chromebooks. This separate window encompasses only these devices and runs from October 20 - November 14, 2014. Additional information on sign up and on testing with these devices will be provided during the next few weeks. Tests completed as a part of this separate window will also qualify for the TRIG participation incentive as well.

Details regarding the minimum requirements for each device type are provided in the Michigan Testing Device Requirements <http://mtrax.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Michigan-Testing-Device-Requirements.pdf> document.

You also need to know:

- The Michigan interim assessments are only available online.
- All interim assessments are aligned to Michigan's education standards and assess students currently enrolled in the subjects selected.

REGISTER NOW TO PARTICPATE AND RECEIVE YOUR TRIG FUNDS

To participate in the Fall 2014 Interim Assessment Field Test, please complete the registration survey for each school at <https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall14-interim-assessment-field-test-registration/>. If you have already completed the registration survey, you do not have to complete it again to qualify for the TRIG participation incentive.

More information about the Michigan Interim Assessments may be found at: <http://www.michigan.gov/interimassessments>.

More information about TRIG may be found at: <http://22itrig.org>

5) REMINDER: Pre-ID your students NOW for the Fall 2014 K-2 and High School Interim Assessments in the Secure Site at <https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/Login.aspx>

It's time to pre-id your students for the fall 2014 K-2 and High School Interim Assessments. Students must be pre-identified on the Secure Site in order to be loaded into Data Recognition Corporation's (DRC) eDIRECT system before you can begin administering these assessments. It is strongly recommended that you pre-identify students well in advance of administering these assessments to ensure that student information has loaded correctly into the eDIRECT system. The window to pre-id students in the secure site is now open and will close on October 14, 2014.

There are multiple methods to pre-identify students on the Secure Site for the Interim Assessments. Camtasia videos with instructions for each of the pre-ID methods and the Secure Site Procedure and User Manual can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_57003---,00.html.

You can use one or a combination of these methods to identify students for testing.

Once students have been loaded into the eDIRECT system, users (Interim Assessment Building Coordinators)

will need to assign students to a testing session. Instructions for creating testing sessions and adding students can be found in the Interim Assessment Building Coordinator Handbook found in the Documents section at <https://mi.drceidirect.com> (no login required).

6) WIDA UPDATES

WIDA Assessment Overview for Charter Schools Webinar

Do you work for a new charter school? Are you a new test coordinator in a charter school? Do you need to know more about testing your English Learners (ELs)? The Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) invites you to participate in a webinar on **Thursday, September 18, 2014 from 2:00 – 3:00**.

This WebEx is geared to help test coordinators in new charter schools understand the following:

- How to ensure you are receiving all testing communications from OSA
- How to ensure you are enrolling students who are potential ELs
- Where to find the most important resources regarding testing of your ELs
- The general processes and times of year for the WIDA assessments

To confirm your participation in this event, please send an e-mail to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguez@michigan.gov.

Spring 2015 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Webinar

If your district is interested in participating in the online version of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 this coming spring, you may attend a webinar on **September 26th at 4:00 PM** for an overview of the assessment. If you are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and posted on [WIDA's website](#). Please e-mail Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguez@michigan.gov for the call-in information.

2015-16 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar

On **September 19th at 4:00 PM** WIDA will host a webinar to provide districts with a brief overview of the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 operational test that will be used in the 2015-16 school year. WIDA encourages participants to watch the new [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Overview Webinar Recording](#) prior to this webinar. Please e-mail Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguez@michigan.gov for the call-in information.

Securely Transferring WIDA Assessment Data

While the Office of Standards & Assessments (OSA) works to ensure that students' assessment history is available in the Secure Site, it is requested by OSA that districts ensure students' records containing previous WIDA assessment data are securely transferred to receiving districts where students will be enrolling for this school year. In order to provide needed instructional services for students this should be done in a timely manner.

7) Ensure Access to Important Information – Review/Update the Educational Entity Master (EEM)

Have you ever wondered why you may not be receiving important assessment-related information? It may be that your district's Educational Entity Master (EEM) information is outdated or incorrect. Or perhaps you are interested in receiving our messages sent via listserv.

To stay informed on state assessments and accountability information from the Division of Accountability Services – we suggest districts have their *authorized* Educational Entity Master (EEM) user review and update entity and contact information for the following:

- Superintendent*
- Principal
- MEAP Coordinator (grades 3-8 and 11 general assessments)
- MI-Access Coordinator (grades 3-8 and 11 alternative assessments)
- School Report Card Contact
- Technology Director
- District Assessment Coordinator
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment Coordinator
- Interim Assessment Coordinator

Note: To accomplish this - the authorized district EEM user may need your help in identifying changes and updates needed from last year.

EEM fields will still continue to be used for contacts and we will work with CEPI to have the names changed in the EEM once we have more information.

New this fall -- A field for the college entrance and work skills assessment coordinator will be added and populated by ACT for the 2014-15 school year, based on information ACT receives from HS principals during the school establishment process. This information can not be changed in the EEM.

If you would like to receive targeted assessment-related communications from DAS, please join one or more of our listservs at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>. You will find the various assessment and accountability listservs under the “Student Assessment” heading.

*Given our communications are primarily targeted to staff directly involved in student assessments, Superintendents are not routinely sent all communications from DAS. If you are a superintendent and would like to receive all DAS communications, please join one or more of the listservs.

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.