

Please see **5 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Committing to the Spring 2013 ELPA Online – NEW Deadline is Friday, October 26, 2012, 2) New from Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium, 3) MEAP-Access Research Code I, 4) MI-Access Fall 2012 Online Answer Document Pilot Window, and 5) MI-Access Early Return Shipping Deadline for Tested Roster

1) Committing to the Spring 2013 ELPA Online – New Deadline is Friday, October 26, 2012

This is a friendly reminder that the final day to sign up for the Spring 2013 ELPA Online is quickly approaching, with a new deadline of **Friday, October 26, 2012**. If you have decided to commit to ELPA Online for Spring 2013, THANK YOU! Please complete the sign-up survey by clicking the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELPASpring2013SignupSurvey>

The sign-up survey is directed at districts that are **committed** to participating in the computer-based version of the Spring 2013 ELPA. However, this commitment is not “all or nothing” for your district – you may choose which buildings within your district you would like to have participate.

IMPORTANT! Districts will not have the ability to change their selection for paper-pencil or online after the close of the sign-up window on Friday, October 26, 2012.

How to Learn More About the Spring 2013 ELPA Online

If you are interested in signing up but would like more information, we are offering an informational WebEx session on the following date and time: **Tuesday, October 23, 2012 11:00am – noon**

To sign up for this session, please go to the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELPAOnlineWebExRSVPSpring2013>

Additionally, if your district is interested in learning more about the Spring 2013 ELPA Online, please view our online presentation and overview, FAQs, and promotional flyer located in the “Spring ELPA Online” section of our ELPA webpage at:

www.michigan.gov/elpa.

Questions?

Please contact ELPA Customer Support at 877-560-8378 and select option 5 for ELPA **OR** send an e-mail to ELPACustomerSupport@QuestarAI.com with any questions or concerns related to the sign-up survey or participation in the ELPA Online.

2) New from Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium

To help educators understand the Common Core State Standards and the corresponding Common Core Essential Elements and their application to students with significant cognitive disabilities, the Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment Consortium has created and will continue to provide self-directed learning modules. Each of the interactive modules is short (30-45 minutes on average) and focuses on a single topic. Three learning models have been created so far. You can access these modules by clicking on the following link:

[Self-Directed Learning Modules](#)

or by going to the Dynamic Learning Maps page located on the MI-Access web page at

www.michigan.gov/mi-access.

When you select a learning module, please be certain to complete the information regarding your name, school, and state. If you have questions about these modules, please contact d1m@unc.edu.

Module 1: Common Core Overview

Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for teachers who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities who will complete the alternate assessment.

Module 2: Common Core Essential Elements

Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to the Essential Elements that were developed by the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium to provide links between the Common Core State Standards and grade specific expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Module 3: Universal Design for Learning

Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to Universal Design for Learning as it relates to the Common Core State Standards and students with significant cognitive disabilities.

A link to the updated video titled "Essential Elements Overview Module" is also now available on the MI-Access Website under the Dynamic Learning Maps link. There were audio problems in the original version, which have been corrected in the new version. You can also access the updated video by clicking on the following link:

[Essential Elements Overview Module](#).

The DLM Newsletter provides short descriptions and updates about the DLM Assessment Consortium and its activities. The Inaugural Edition of the DLM Newsletter is posted to the MI-Access website and can also be accessed by clicking on the following link:

[DLM Newsletter October 2012](#).

3) MEAP-Access Research Code I

During most test cycles, research codes provide districts an opportunity to receive results broken out by research groups (up to ten groups per field), in addition to the usual school and district summaries. However, for 2012, the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) needs to use the Research Code I field to collect data from test administrators regarding expected student performance on the test. The data collected will:

1. be used to provide information for determining a possible set of cut scores for 2012,
2. serve as a comparison to the cut scores set during 2011, and
3. help provide validity evidence for previously established cut scores.

Test administrators must fill in the Research Code I field in Box 1 of the student answer document (or scorable test booklet for grade 3) according to the top performance level they believe the student being assessed will achieve, using the following guidelines:

- If the test administrator believes the student being assessed has the knowledge, ability, and skills of a student in the top performance level, he or she should fill in the number "1" bubble.
- If the test administrator believes the student has the knowledge, ability, and skills of a student in the middle performance level, he or she should fill in the number "2" bubble.
- If the test administrator believes the student has the knowledge, ability, and skills of a student in the bottom performance level, he or she should fill in the number "3" bubble.

To obtain information on what students in the top, middle, and bottom performance levels are expected to know and be able to do, go to the MEAP-Access web page:

www.michigan.gov/meap-access

and select "Performance Level Descriptors" (under "Resources"). Test administrators may use the information there—along with what they already know about the student's knowledge, abilities, and skills—to make their determinations. The top performance level is called "Exceeded Expectations," the middle performance level is called "Met Expectations," and the bottom performance level is called "Progressing Towards Expectations."

4) MI-Access Fall 2012 Online Answer Document Pilot Window

The BAA and Questar would like to remind all districts who are participating in the Fall 2012 MI-Access Online Answer Document Pilot that the window to enter student responses or ratings into iTester is **October 1 - November 9, 2012**, which is the same as the Fall 2012 MI-Access assessment window. Following the November 9, 2012 deadline, the iTester Administration Site

will be closed and Assessment Administrators will no longer be able to enter or change student responses or ratings. Please ensure that all student responses and ratings entries are completed, and that the School Test Coordinator has indicated "Site Completion" in iTester **no later than November 9, 2012.**

5) MI -Access Early Return Shipping Deadline for Tested Roster

This fall, the MI-Access assessment window was moved up one week to run from **October 1 – November 9, 2012.** The reason was to align MI-Access Tested Roster with Tested Roster of the other statewide fall assessments. Tested Roster will run from **November 28 - December 4, 2012 for fall assessments.** This will align the window to allow review and updates to ALL student demographic information in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). This is the first time that MI-Access has had the opportunity to review Tested Roster information simultaneously with other fall assessments.

To accomplish this, districts are also required to return testing material early to meet the deadline for this window. Districts that ship their MI-Access assessment materials to the MI-Access Contractor, Questar Assessment, Inc., **by the Tuesday, November 6, 2012** early returns shipping deadline will have the opportunity to review their Tested Roster for the full 5 days. Districts that ship their materials by the Wednesday, November 14, 2012 deadline will have 2-3 days to review their Tested Roster. It is strongly recommended that districts take advantage of the early return shipping deadline, in order to have access to a full Tested Roster review. The final date to return all testing materials is **Wednesday, November 14, 2012.**

Questions?

Please email us at baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.