



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Nonpublic School Administrators
District Assessment Coordinators
Test Administrators

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Update on Student Assessment and COVID-19

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing this update on student assessment and the current COVID-19 public health emergency. This is an unprecedented time in our state with the Governor ordering all schools closed through April 5th. The Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability (OEAA) wants to emphasize that student, staff, and community health and safety are the top priorities. Please continue to look for updates from MDE and OEAA as things may continue to change.

The OEAA is working with each of our assessment vendors to plan for a variety of scenarios that could occur during this time. Certainly, one of these scenarios has already played out in the statewide closure of schools for this extended period. We are partnering with our vendors to look for additional ways to provide more flexibility in all our state assessments (M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and WIDA) that would allow for their successful completion.

School closure due to the public health emergency has created significant concerns about test preparation, test administration, and potential student results. Top department leadership has conveyed these concerns to the U.S. Department of Education and will advocate for maximum flexibility.

This situation is evolving continuously, and MDE is working to adapt to changes as you are. The OEAA will continue to communicate both through our regular Spotlight communication and direct communications around this matter.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact MDE Assessment & Accountability staff at mde-oeaa@michigan.gov or 877-560-8378.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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