



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Assessment Window Changes for Spring 2020

In 2016, the Michigan state legislature passed Michigan's Read by Grade 3 Law (MCL 380.1280f) and districts have been implementing components of the law since then. As prescribed in the law, this year's Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) must be used to flag students who are eligible for retention.

After continued review of the law, MDE has decided to make a small adjustment to the testing schedule to provide districts with more time to address the 30-day parental appeal window in the law. The second testing window, formerly scheduled to open on May 4th and close on May 29th, will now open on **Monday, April 27th and close on Friday, May 22nd**. This affects tested grades 3, 4, 6 and 7.

MDE understands that districts may have already set their testing schedules. This does not require that any district change those schedules unless they choose to do so or unless they were planning to test the week of May 25th after Memorial Day. Districts should also review carefully the communication sent today entitled, "District-Level Plans for Assessment Windows, Read by Grade 3 Implementation, and Communicating Retention to Parents" for more details on the actions districts will need to take for any students flagged for potential retention and make their decisions accordingly.

MDE is available to help districts with any questions they may have. Questions related to the testing window itself can be directed to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov. Questions related to the Read by Grade 3 law and literacy supports can be directed to MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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