# Guide to State Assessments



October 1, 2021

# → OVERVIEW

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is preparing for the 2021-22 administration of the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), along with the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), PSAT assessments, MI-Access alternate assessments, WIDA for English learners, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessments.

The spring of 2022 will be the second administration of our new M-STEP science assessments, as well as the initial year for the re-aligned MI-Access Science assessment. These new science assessments are fully aligned to Michigan's current science content

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standards including the alternate content expectations for science.

This year also brings modified M-STEP and MME testing windows as well as another year of benchmark assessment administration and data reporting which OEAA will be supporting.

Our continued concern is for the continued safety of students, staff, and families around the state. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office if you have any questions.

Additional information on each state assessment is provided within this document.

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability (www. michigan.gov/mde-spotlight), for timely information on assessment and accountability topics during the 2021-2022 school year.

# → SPRING 2022 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Major changes for Spring 2022 summative testing include the following:

 M-STEP testing will now have one combined testing window for all grades and content instead of two grade-level specific testing windows. The online testing window will begin on 4/11/2022 and end on 5/20/2022.

The exception to the single 6-week window is grade 3 ELA which will be a 4-week window running from 4/11 to 5/6/2022. This exception is to allow for the special processing associated with the Read by Grade 3 law. Schools are encouraged to assess third graders as early as practical in this shortened window.

The paper/pencil window will mirror the online window for grade 3 ELA. Consult the calendar information on pages 22 and 23 for full information.

- The M-STEP science tests will be one part in all grades.
- MI-Access science testing will take place in grades 5, 8, and 11 instead of grades 4, 7, and 11. This brings MI-Access into alignment with the state standards and with M-STEP. This change affects all three levels of MI-Access – Functional Independence (FI), Supported Independence (SI), and Participation (P). See the page 10 for details.
- The primary test day for SAT with Essay in 11th grade and for PSAT 8/9 in grade 8 will now take place on Wednesday (instead of Tuesday), April 13, 2022. The change was made at the request of districts who desired additional time after Spring Break to prepare for testing. The first day of testing for PSAT 8/9 in grade 9 and PSAT 10 will also be 4/13/2022. Consult the calendar on page 22 for details.
- The primary test day for ACT WorkKeys in grade 11 is moving to Thursday (from Wednesday) 4/14/2022. See the calendar on page 22 for details.

#### M-STEP summative tests for grades 3-7 include:

- English Language Arts (grades 3–7): computeradaptive test (CAT) with Passage-based Writing prompt (essay) at every grade
- Mathematics (grades 3–7): computer-adaptive test (CAT)

- Science (grade 5): fixed-form online assessment
- Social Studies (grade 5): fixed-form online assessment

#### Michigan grade 8 testing includes:

- PSAT 8/9 for grade 8: paper/pencil assessment.
   This test provides the ELA and mathematics scores for accountability in grade 8. This test provides the ELA and mathematics scores for accountability in grade 8.
- M-STEP Science and Social Studies online fixed-form assessments

#### **PSAT** in grades 9 and 10 includes:

- PSAT 8/9 for grade 9: paper/pencil assessment
- PSAT 10 for grade 10: paper/pencil assessment

Assessment results from the PSAT 8/9 for grade 9 and the PSAT 10 are not part of Michigan's accountability system.

#### MME in grade 11 includes:

- SAT with Essay: paper/pencil assessment. This test provides the ELA and mathematics scores for accountability in grade 11.
- ACT WorkKeys: paper/pencil assessment
- M-STEP Science: fixed-form online assessment
- M-STEP Social Studies: fixed-form online assessment

# MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) in grades 3-8 and 11 includes:

- English Language Arts
  - » Expressing Ideas (grades 3–8 and 11): provided as a paper/pencil assessment only for all students
  - Accessing Print and Using Language (grades 3–8 and 11): fixed-form online assessment

- Mathematics (grades 3–8 and 11): fixed-form online assessment
- Science (grades 5, 8, and 11): fixed-form online assessment
- Social Studies (grades 5, 8, and 11): fixed-form online assessment

# MI-Access Supported Independence (SI) & Participation (P) in grades 3–8 and 11 includes:

- English Language Arts and Mathematics combined administrator booklets with student facing picture cards (grades 3, 4, 6, and 7): paper administrator booklet with online answer documents
- English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science combined administrator booklets with student facing picture cards (grades 5, 8, and 11): paper administrator booklet with online answer documents
- Students taking the P/SI levels of
   MI-Access must be assessed with a locally
   determined social studies assessment.
   Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams
   must determine which locally determined social
   studies test will be administered for students
   in grades 5, 8, and 11. Schools are required to
   provide information on the locally determined
   social studies test during the OEAA Secure Site
   Answer Documents Received and Students Not
   Tested window.

#### **Spring 2022 Testing Windows**

The Spring 2022 testing window for the M-STEP assessments will span six weeks from **April 11 – May 20, 2022**.

- The M-STEP online window is divided into two windows:
  - Online testing for grades 3 (mathematics)
     4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11: April 11 May 20, 2022

- » Online testing for grade 3 (ELA): April 11 May 6, 2022
  - This avoids as many spring breaks as possible, and provides maximum flexibility within the combined testing window.
- The M-STEP paper/pencil window spans four weeks:
  - » Paper/pencil testing for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11: April 11 May 6, 2022

Schools must select an initial test date for each grade and content area, and assess as many students as possible on that date. The remaining days in the paper/pencil window may be used for make-up testing of absent students. Students with accommodations may be tested flexibly throughout the window.

The 7-week testing window for MI-Access Alternate Assessment for **both online and paper/pencil** is **April 11 – May 27**, **2022**.

The testing window for WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for **both online** and paper/pencil has been extended. It is now February 7 – March 25, 2022.

#### M-STEP Statewide Science Assessment

The M-STEP science assessment is structured using item clusters, which are a set of five to eight items with a common stimulus. For Spring 2022, each student will be administered 7 item clusters (covering Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science).

The operational test will be administered online, with a paper/pencil option for those few students for whom an online assessment may be inappropriate.

# → M-STEP TEST SESSION TIMING

Spring 2022 M-STEP tests are untimed and student-paced. Therefore, students **must** be given as much time as they need to complete each session or part of the test. The times listed on the following pages are **estimated** times and are provided for planning purposes. Some students will complete the test in less time than estimated, while others may require additional time. Be sure to plan for both contingencies.

Online tests will remain open and available for testing until the student ends or submits his or her test. This means that students will be able to pause and exit their test at the end of the test session and resume testing in another scheduled session during the testing window. A school can determine the appropriate amount of time for students to spend in a single test session.

**For example**, if the estimated time for a test session is 90 minutes, you may decide to schedule:

- · one 2-hour session with a break
- two 60-minute sessions
- three 40-minute sessions
- one 60- and two 30-minute sessions

The net result for schools is the **freedom to schedule** an appropriate amount of time for students to be in test sessions. Students can exit the test without submitting, allowing them to finish the test in another scheduled session.

#### **Online Test Sessions**

When scheduling **online** test sessions, please keep in mind the following:

 testing windows cannot be extended, therefore schools should schedule sessions early enough in the testing window to ensure all students can complete testing within the allowable testing window

- schools have flexibility to schedule test sessions any time normal instruction takes place during the school day (M-F 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.) within the sixweek grade-level test window
- not all students need to be administered the same assessment at the same time, nor on the same day
- headphones are required for the M-STEP ELA (and all MI-Access FI test sessions)
- estimated test session times do **not** include the following:
  - » traveling to and from the testing room
  - » distributing and collecting test tickets and scratch paper
  - » signing into the test session
  - » reviewing online test directions with students

#### **Paper/Pencil Test Days**

 Students being assessed in the paper/pencil mode must select an initial test date for each grade and content area, and assess as many students as possible on that date. Test parts should be scheduled early enough in the school day to allow students to complete the entire test within the school day. ELA Day 1 should be scheduled for a single day and ELA Day 2 should be scheduled on a different day.

Estimated test session times do **not** include the following:

- » traveling to and from the testing room
- » distributing and collecting test materials including test booklets and answer documents
- » completion of the answer document demographic page
- » reviewing test directions with students

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# → TESTING IN GRADES 3 – 8

The following tables provide overall test session timing and information on online and paper/pencil assessments by grade and content area. For planning purposes, keep in mind that some students will need more time to test and some students will take less.

Spring 2022 Estimated Test Session Timings Grades 3–7					
Subject	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
ELA Computer Adaptive	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00
Mathematics Computer Adaptive	1:30	1:30	1:30	2:00	2:00
Science	NA	NA	1:30	NA	NA
Social Studies	NA	NA	0:60	NA	NA
Estimated Total Hours	3:30	3:30	6:00	4:00	4:00

NOTE: Times are in hours:minutes. Example, 1:30 equals 1 hour 30 minutes.

Spring 2022 Estimated Test Session Timings Grade 8		
Subject	Grade 8	
PSAT 8/9 (ELA and Mathematics)	2:35	
M-STEP Science	1:30	
M-STEP Social Studies	:60	
Estimated Total Hours	5:05	

## **English Language Arts (ELA)**

Grade	Online 🖳	Paper/Pencil 🖉
3 – 7	<ul> <li>4-week testing window (grade 3)</li> <li>6-week testing window (grades 4, 5, 6, and 7)</li> <li>1 session (1 test ticket)</li> <li>Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) – 2 hours</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during the test session using the software's pause feature</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>Day 1: Parts 1 and 2 – 1 hour         Listening/Claim 3         Reading/Claim 1</li> <li>Day 2: Part 3 – 1 hour         Writing/Claim 2         Research/Claim 4</li> <li>Breaks can be provided at STOP signs in test booklet</li> </ul>

#### **Mathematics**

Grade	Online 🔙	Paper/Pencil 🥟
3 – 5	<ul> <li>6-week testing window</li> <li>1 session (1 test ticket)</li> <li>Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) – 1 hour, 30 minutes</li> <li>Calculators not permitted in grades 3 – 5</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>Part 1 – 45 minutes</li> <li>Part 2 – 45 minutes</li> <li>Calculators not permitted in grades 3 – 5</li> <li>Breaks can be provided at STOP signs in test booklet</li> </ul>
6 – 7	<ul> <li>6-week testing window</li> <li>1 session (1 test ticket)</li> <li>Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) – 2 hours</li> <li>Grade 6 – embedded basic calculator *</li> <li>Grade 7 – embedded scientific calculator *</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature</li> <li>* on designated items</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>Part 1 – 1 hour (no calculator)</li> <li>Part 2 – 1 hour (with calculator)</li> <li>Grade 6 – basic calculator</li> <li>Grade 7 – scientific calculator</li> <li>Breaks can be provided at STOP signs in test booklet</li> </ul>

#### Science

Grade	Online 🖳	Paper/Pencil 🥟
5 and 8	<ul> <li>6-week testing window</li> <li>1 session (1 test ticket) – 90 minutes</li> <li>Grade 5 – four function calculator (optional)</li> <li>Grade 8 – scientific calculator (optional)</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>1 Part – 90 minutes</li> <li>Grade 5 – four function calculator (optional)</li> <li>Grade 8 – scientific calculator (optional)</li> <li>Breaks can be provided at STOP signs in test booklet.</li> </ul>

#### **Social Studies**

Grade	Online 🔲	Paper/Pencil 🥟
5 and 8	<ul> <li>6-week testing window</li> <li>1 session (1 test ticket) – 60 minutes</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>1 Part – 60 minutes</li> <li>Breaks can be provided at STOP signs in test booklet</li> </ul>

# → PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 TESTING TIMES

The PSAT 8/9 for grade 8 will count toward ELA and mathematics accountability measures. The PSAT 8/9 for students in grade 9 and the PSAT 10 for students in grade 10 will **not** count towards Spring 2022 accountability.

#### PSAT 8/9 for Grade 8 and Grade 9 and PSAT 10 for Grade 10

PSAT Sections	PSAT 8/9 🖉 (in minutes)	PSAT 10 // (in minutes)
Reading	55	60
Break	5	5
Writing and Language	30	35
Math (no calculator)	20	25
Break	5	5
Math (with calculator)	40	45
Total (hours, minutes)	2:35	2:55

**Note:** The PSAT Accommodations Testing window is 10 days for students with any approved accommodations. Students approved for testing over two days must be tested on consecutive days. Students absent on the second day must test complete testing on the first day back in schools.

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# → TESTING IN GRADE 11 – Michigan Merit Examination (MME)

Students in 11th grade (and eligible 12th grade students) must be administered all three components of the MME:

- SAT with Essay
- ACT WorkKeys
- M-STEP Science and Social Studies



Testing times for the MME components are shown here and on the following page. For detailed information on online testing windows and paper/pencil testing dates, see the **Spring 2022 Summative Testing Schedule** on page 22 of this document.

Spring 2022 MME Component Test Session Timings		
Subject	Grade 11	
Science	1:30	
Social Studies	0:30	
College Entrance*	4:07	
Work Skills* 3:00		
Estimated Total Hours 9:07		
* Includes scheduled breaks		

#### M-STEP Science and Social Studies

Grade	Online 💂	Paper/Pencil 🖉
11	<ul> <li>6-week testing window</li> <li>Science: 1 session (1 test ticket) – 90 minutes         <ul> <li>scientific calculator (optional)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Social Studies: 1 session (1 test ticket) – 30 minutes</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4-week testing window</li> <li>Science: 1 Part – 90 minutes         <ul> <li>scientific calculator (optional)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Social Studies: 1 Part – 30 minutes</li> </ul>

## **SAT** with Essay

**Note:** while the Essay portion of the SAT is no longer offered by the College Board for national test days, it is required for Michigan's Spring testing that is used for accountability purposes.

SAT Sections	Time 🏈 (in minutes)
Reading	65
Break	10
Writing and Language	35
Math (no calculator)	25
Break	5
Math (with calculator)	55
Break	2
Book collection/Essay distribution	15
Essay	50
Total (hours: minutes)*	4:22

<sup>\*</sup>does not include preadministration time

**Note:** The SAT Accommodations Testing window is 10 days for students with certain non-standard accommodations. Only students who are designated on the Non-standard Administration Report (NAR) are eligible to test within the 10 day window. Students approved for testing over two days must be tested on consecutive days. Students absent on the second day must test complete testing on the first day back in schools.

## **ACT WorkKeys**

Tests	Time 🌶 (in minutes)
Workplace Documents	55
Applied Math	55
Break*	15
Graphic Literacy	55
Total (hours: minutes)	3:00

<sup>\*</sup>ACT requires that you allow a break of 15 minutes at the end of Applied Math (test 2) to allow examinees to relax or go to the restroom. No cell phones may be used during the break.

# → MI-ACCESS ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS

MI-Access Alternate Assessments are administered at three levels:

MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) – For students who have, or function as if they have, a significant cognitive impairment, can access resources, strategies, and supports with limited assistance, and whose instruction is aligned closest to the "High" range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics Essential Elements.

**MI-Access Supported Independence (SI)** – For students who have, or function as if they have, a significant cognitive impairment, require ongoing support in major life roles, and whose instruction is aligned closest to the "Medium" range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics Essential Elements.

**MI-Access Participation (P)** – For students who have, or function as if they have, a significant cognitive impairment, require extensive ongoing support through adulthood, and whose instruction is aligned closest to the "Low" range of complexity for ELA and Mathematics Essential Elements.

MI-Access assessments are based on the Essential Elements with Michigan Range of Complexity for ELA and Mathematics, Extended Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies (FI only), and Extended Benchmarks for Science. The alternate content standards can be found on the MI-Access web page (www.michigan.gov/mi-access).

#### MI-Access Functional Independence (FI)

The MI-Access FI assessments will be administered online in Spring 2022. A paper/pencil format will be available for those students and schools that are not able to test online.

The FI assessments include:

- English Language Arts (grades 3–8 and 11)
   which consists of two parts both parts must be completed:
  - Accessing Print and Using Language
     online or paper/pencil
  - Expressing Ideas (constructed response) administered as paper/pencil assessment only to all students (including students taking the rest of the MI-Access FI assessments online)
- Mathematics (grades 3–8 and 11)
- **Science** (grades 5, 8, and 11)
- Social Studies (grades 5, 8, and 11)

#### **MI-Access FI Online Assessments**

Online tests in each content area will have two parts and are untimed. Students can complete one part in a single day with the flexibility to have multiple breaks during the day when needed, or test over multiple days. It is not recommended for students to take more than one part of a MI-Access section or subject on any single day.

# MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence (P/SI)

Students will continue to experience activity-based observation items as well as selected-response items using picture cards and/or instructional materials. The answer document is the only online component of the P/SI assessments. Primary Assessment Administrators will enter the student scores for both the Primary and Shadow Assessment Administrators into the online answer document.

It is strongly recommended that Primary and Shadow Assessment Administrators take the MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence Scoring Rubrics course. This video-enhanced presentation is an excellent tool for training all staff involved in this testing. This course is available from Michigan Virtual and participants can earn 2 SCHECHs upon completion. Access the course on the MI-Access web page (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) under the Assessment Training and Resources for Educators section.

The P/SI assessments include:

- English language arts (grades 3-8 and 11)
- Mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11)
- **Science** (grades 5, 8, and 11)

Note: Districts must administer a locally determined social studies assessment for students who typically take MI-Access P/SI. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams must determine which locally determined social studies test will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11.

# Grade 11 MI-Access FI: College Entrance and Work Skills Assessments

- Students taking the grade 11 MI-Access assessments may also take the ACT WorkKeys assessment if the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines it is an appropriate assessment.
- If the IEP team determines that the SAT with Essay is an appropriate assessment for the student, then the ELA and mathematics scores will be derived from the SAT with Essay and the student will not take the MI-Access FI ELA and mathematics tests.

# → WIDA

#### WIDA ACCESS for ELLs

Michigan's federally required summative assessment for students identified as English Learners (ELs) is the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs. This annual assessment is designed to measure K–12 ELs on their progress in learning the English language. The assessment provides a status of their development of Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking skills. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs is aligned to the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards that Michigan adopted in 2013.

This assessment can be administered online in grades 1–12. A paper/pencil form of the assessment is required for K and available in grades 1–12 for students who may not yet be technology-ready or have a disability that requires a paper/pencil test.

#### WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Districts have the option to use the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs paper/pencil assessment. This assessment is designed for students who are ELs and are also students who have or function as if they have significant cognitive disabilities. This assessment is available in grades 1–12 only (grade level clusters: 1–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12). Each section of this test (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing) is estimated to take approximately 20 minutes.

Additional information about test administration can be found on the <u>WIDA website</u> (wida.wisc.edu) as well as within the WIDA Secure Portal.

#### **WIDA Screener and W-APT**

The WIDA Screener and the Kindergarten WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) are screening assessments used to identify potential ELs upon enrollment. The WIDA Screener is available in both an online and paper/pencil format for students in grades 1-12. However, students should only take the paper/pencil form of the Screener if they have disabilities requiring use of a paper/pencil form or if they are considered recent arrivers (attended U.S. schools for 12 months or less). The WIDA Screener may take between 35 and 70 minutes depending on the grade level cluster and path administered.

The W-APT is the paper/pencil assessment given to Kindergarteners. The W-APT assesses the Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking domains. The W-APT is designed to take 10-15 minutes for Listening and Speaking and an additional 10-15 minutes for Reading and Writing. Refer to Michigan's <a href="Entrance and Exit Protocol">Entrance and Exit Protocol</a> for screening requirements.

# Test Session Timing and Sequence for WIDA ACCESS

#### Scheduling online testing sessions:

- The Listening and Reading domains must be administered first in the testing window for students in grades 1-12. Because the assessment is staged-adaptive, scores from a student's performance in these two domains will determine his/her tier (A or B/C) for Writing.
- Students do not need to be separated by tier (A, B, C) during test administration. However, students must still be tested in the appropriate grade-level cluster.
- Breaks can be provided during the test sessions using the software's pause feature. A single domain test should not be broken into separate administrations.

- Each online domain requires a separate test ticket. Students in:
  - » grades 1–3 will have three tickets (Writing is administered in paper/pencil only):
    - » Listening
    - » Reading
    - » Speaking
  - » grades 4-12 will have four tickets:
    - » Listening
    - » Reading
    - » Speaking
    - » Writing
- Students must utilize a microphone for the Speaking domain.
- Students must utilize headphones for all domains.
- Although students may be group-administered the Speaking domain, WIDA recommends only 3–5 students per computer lab/test setting. This small group setting is necessary to ensure that student responses are not picked up by another student's microphone. It is possible that a student's score may be negatively impacted if a significant amount of background noise or interference is captured in their response.

#### Scheduling paper/pencil testing sessions:

- For students taking the paper version of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, the domains may be administered in any order.
- Breaks can be provided to students during the test sessions as long as materials are kept secure.

The table below outlines key differences between grades 1–12 online and paper/pencil. Note that all times listed are estimates.

	ACCESS for ELLs - Online (Grades 1-12)	ACCESS for ELLs - Paper/Pencil (Grades K*-12)
Grade Level Clusters	• 1, 2–3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12	• K*, 1, 2, 3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12
Listening	<ul><li>test platform captures and scores student responses</li><li>up to 65 minutes</li></ul>	• 1-12: 25–60 minutes
Reading	• up to 60 minutes	• 35–70 minutes
Speaking	<ul> <li>students listen to prompts and speak into headsets to record their answers</li> <li>student responses are automatically sent to DRC for rating and scoring</li> <li>up to 50 minutes</li> <li>maximum of 5 students in the testing room</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>test administrator plays pre-recorded speaking prompts on a CD</li> <li>students speak their responses to test administrators</li> <li>test administrators score student speech during administration</li> <li>Up to 45 minutes per student, administered</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul> <li>Grades 1–3: students complete the entire writing test (prompts and responses) on paper</li> <li>Grades 4–12:         <ul> <li>students read prompts on the computer screen</li> <li>students keyboard or handwrite responses based on Michigan's guidelines—keyboarding is the default setting</li> </ul> </li> <li>keyboarded responses are automatically sent to DRC; handwritten responses will need to be shipped</li> <li>up to 90 minutes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tier A, Grade 1: up to 40 minutes</li> <li>◆ students read prompts on a paper test form</li> <li>Tier A, Grades 2-12: up to 75 minutes</li> <li>Tier B/C, Grade 1: up to 80 minutes</li> <li>Tier B/C: up to 80 minutes</li> <li>students handwrite responses on a paper test form</li> <li>test booklets are returned to DRC and scored</li> </ul>

<sup>\*</sup> Test administrators planning to administer the Kindergarten form of the assessment can plan on an average of **45 minutes per student**. The Kindergarten assessment is administered individually and is semi-adaptive, which may change the administration time depending on students' English proficiency levels (low proficiency = shorter administration time, high proficiency = longer administration time).

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# → EARLY LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS (K-2)

The MDE-developed Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessments are available for students in grades K, 1, and 2. These benchmark assessments are aligned to Michigan's academic content standards and can be administered three times a year: fall, winter, and spring. The Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessments are only available online; there is no paper/pencil version.

Beginning in 2017-2018, the "Read by Grade 3" law requires students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3 be administered an English language arts (ELA) assessment within the first 30 days of school. The assessment must be from the MDE-approved list of initial assessments to assure students are on target to pass the third grade summative ELA assessment (M-STEP). Districts can choose to administer any assessment from the MDEapproved list of initial assessments located on the Early Literacy and Mathematics web page (www. michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) under Early Literacy and Mathematics Resources section. The MDEdeveloped Early Literacy Benchmark Assessments are on this approved list of initial assessments and fulfill the Read by Grade 3 initial assessment requirement.

In addition, current legislation requires districts to administer a benchmark assessment or assessments in reading and mathematics at the beginning and end of the school year to all students in Kindergarten through grade 8. It further directed MDE to provide a benchmark assessment at no cost to districts. Under OEAA's existing administration contract with Data Recognition Group (DRC), the MDE-developed Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmarks assessments are being made available free of charge to districts to fulfill this requirement for students in grades K-2.

Under both laws, districts may choose different benchmark assessments or tools for literacy/reading and mathematics.

When considering which benchmark assessments and reading assessments a student should take, it is important to look at the needs of all students, including students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The needs of students who are working toward Michigan's alternate content expectations (Essential Elements) should be considered carefully. For such students, if an IEP team determines that the benchmark or reading assessment the district is using is not appropriate for the student, then another method of assessing the student's progress must be chosen and implemented. This may include, but is not limited to, systems used to monitor ongoing academic progress, if these systems can show student growth and progress towards the appropriate state academic standards.

The above holds true for English learners for whom this or other benchmark assessments are not appropriate because of their current level of language skills. Consider the current monitoring tools or local assessments the district is using with this population of students for monitoring progress towards proficiency in ELA and mathematics.

Early Literacy and Mathematics Testing Windows						
Fall 2021	August 23 – October 29, 2021					
Winter 2022	January 3 – February 4, 2022					
Spring 2022	April 11 – June 3, 2022					

The fall, winter, and spring online administration of the benchmark assessments use the same online test delivery engine as the M-STEP assessments. For grades K, 1, and 2, there is a 9-week testing window in the fall, followed by a 4-week testing window in the winter, and an 8-week testing window in the spring. Schools participating in the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark online assessments must pre-identify their students in the Secure Site using the Pre-ID function.

#### Keep in mind the following:

- Human Voice Audio (HVA) is the standard way in which mathematics and ELA reading passages, test questions, and appropriate answer options are presented to students in grades K and 1, so headphones will be needed.
- Students in grade 2 will need headphones if Text-to-Speech (TTS) is enabled.

The following tables provide session and timing information for the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments.

**English Language Arts (ELA)** 

Grades	Online 💂 only
K–2	<ul> <li>2 sessions (2 test tickets: Part 1, Part 2)</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature.</li> <li>K - Part 1: 30-40 minutes     Part 2: 30-40 minutes</li> <li>1 - Part 1: 30-40 minutes     Part 2: 30-40 minutes     Part 2: 30-40 minutes     Part 2: 35-45 minutes     Part 2: 35-45 minutes</li> </ul>

#### **Mathematics**

Grades	Online 🖳 only
K–2	<ul> <li>2 sessions (2 test tickets: Part 1, Part 2)</li> <li>Breaks can be provided during test sessions using the software's pause feature.</li> <li>K - Part 1: 25-35 minutes     Part 2: 25-35 minutes</li> <li>1 - Part 1: 25-35 minutes     Part 2: 25-35 minutes</li> <li>2 - Part 1: 35-45 minutes     Part 2: 35-45 minutes</li> </ul>

Remote testing is supported for students taking the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. To better ensure valid and reliable results from the assessment and to maintain the security of test items, an in-person administration is strongly recommended. The remote testing option should be reserved for students who are receiving most or all of their instruction remotely and for whom returning to an in-person school environment is not feasible.

# → MICHIGAN LAW AND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

2021-22 Benchmark Requirements
Public Act 48 section 104a (http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-388-1704a) requires districts to administer benchmark assessments to all students in K-8.

#### Under the law:

- Districts must administer a benchmark assessment or assessments to all students in grades K-8
- The benchmark assessment(s) must be administered within the first 9 weeks of school and again before the end of the school year.
- The law encourages districts administer the same benchmark assessment or assessments that it administered in previous years.
- Districts are provided choice in the benchmark assessment or assessments they choose to administer. Choice includes:
  - benchmark assessments from an MDEapproved assessment provider list
    - a. The four approved assessment providers are:
      - Curriculum Associates

- Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
- NWEA
- Renaissance
- b. These providers must provide benchmark assessment(s) that meet the following criteria:
  - be one of the most commonly administered benchmark assessments in Michigan
  - measure proficiency in reading and mathematics
  - be aligned to state academic standards
  - complement the state summative assessment system
  - be online or internet-delivered and allow for multiple testing opportunities
  - provide timely information and feedback on student achievement and growth
  - be nationally normed
- 2. benchmark assessments or tools that:
  - a. provide progress monitoring and enhanced diagnostics in reading
  - b. provide progress monitoring in math
- 3. a local benchmark assessment
- 4. any combination of the above choices
- Districts administering Curriculum Associates i-Ready, NWEA Map, or Renaissance Star may apply for \$12.50 funding per membership student in grades K to 8.
- In addition, MDE is directed to make available a benchmark assessment at no cost to districts from the list of approved assessment providers. The following benchmark assessments are provided under the existing DRC administration contract free of charge to districts:
  - » Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments in grades 3-8

- » MDE-developed Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments in grades K-2
- Districts administering benchmark assessments from the approved list must report benchmark results to MDE within 30 days of administration.
- Districts administering local benchmark assessments or assessments with progress monitoring tools must identify the the assessments used, how the assessment(s) measure changes, and how the district plans to address any losses in learning.

Additional information including an aggregate file schema and a 2021-22 Benchmark Fact sheet are posted to the MDE Benchmark web page. (www.michigan.gov/mde-benchmarkassessments)

# → FALL 2021 SAT SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS TESTING IN HIGH SCHOOL

Legislation recently signed by Governor Whitmer requires districts to make the PSAT 8/9 for grade 9, PSAT/NMSQT for grades 10 and 11, and SAT for grade 12 available in Fall 2021.

- Students who were unable to take the assessment in Spring 2021 are eligible to take the applicable fall assessment.
- Students who took a College Board assessment in Spring 2021 and request to take the test again are eligible to take the applicable fall assessment.
- Students may participate but are not required to take Fall 2021 assessments.
- Results from Fall 2021 assessments will not be included in accountability reporting.
- The SAT Essay is not available in Fall 2021.

Fall 2021 Dates and Guidelines										
Assessment	Test Dates/Windows	Important Dates								
PSAT 8/9 for Grade 9	Window opens September 20. Testing must be concluded by October 29	Order test books: No later than four weeks prior to your chosen test date								
PSAT/NMSQT for Grades 10 and 11	Wednesday, October 13 Saturday, October 16* Tuesday, October 26	Request accommodations: August 24 Order test books: September 15								
SAT for Grades 11	Wednesday, October 13 Thursday, October 28	Request accommodations: August 24 Order test books: September 15								

<sup>\*</sup> Schools may choose to offer testing on Saturday, October 16 but they must offer an additional date (either 10/13 or 10/26/21) as well.

- Spring 2022 testing for state accountability will be required whether or not students test in Fall 2021.
- The test dates and windows listed above are the only available options for the Michiganprovided fall assessments. For more information on each assessment:
  - » <u>SAT School Day</u> (https://collegereadiness. collegeboard.org/sat/k12-educators/satschool-day)
  - » <u>PSAT/NMSQT</u> (https://collegereadiness. collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10)
  - » PSAT 8/9 (https://collegereadiness.collegebo ard.org/psat-8-9/k12-educators/dates)
  - » For information on these administrations, including flexibility options provided by the College Board visit the MME (www.michigan.gov/mme) or PSAT (www.michigan.gov/psat) web pages.

## → RESOURCES

## M-STEP, MI-Access FI, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments

#### **Resources for Online Testers**

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has developed online resources for students taking state assessments at all grade levels. The resources support the idea that children can learn about online technology when teachers and other educators demonstrate the use of technology—classroom viewing of the student video tutorial, classroom viewing of the Online Tools Training (OTTs), followed by interacting with children while each student practices with technology (OTTs).

#### **Student Tutorials**

The OEAA has created Student Tutorials. These are student-narrated videos that introduce teachers and students to the online tests and tools contained in the M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. The Student Tutorials are designed

to be administered in a group setting, such as the classroom, using a projector or other similar resource.



The tutorials can be accessed three different ways:

- DRC INSIGHT Portal (https://mi.drcedirect.com) Select the Documents and Training Materials link, then the Test Tutorials tab to access the tutorials.
- INSIGHT Open INSIGHT and at the bottom of the page select the DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments Tutorials link.
- Chrome (https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi) You must use the Chrome browser to access the tutorials. Select the yellow link at the bottom of the page: DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments Tutorials. This is the same link used for the online sample item sets.

An important component of the Student Tutorials is that they provide explicit training on the pause/exit/ end test functionality of the online testing engine. In addition, the tutorials explain how to access and use specific tools.

#### **Online Sample Item Sets and OTTs**

Another important set of resources teachers can access are online Sample Item Sets for students in grades K-8, and 11. The Sample Item Sets are a select group of test items in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies that encompass various kinds of technology-enhanced items (including drag and drop and hot spots) and are embedded within the OTTs. The sets provide teachers and students practice in solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan's content standards, and provide practice in navigating the online test delivery system. The OTTs are not scored.

OTTs give students opportunities to see what different test items look like and practice using the online testing tools. Providing students with ample practice opportunities will ensure they are familiar with item types, navigation strategies, and system tools on test day.

The OTTs can be accessed two ways:

<u>Chrome</u> (https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi) – You must use the Chrome browser to access the OTTs. Choose the **Online Tools** <u>Training</u> link located under each assessment.

Students can access the practice sets from home with the Chrome browser.

 INSIGHT – Open INSIGHT, select the Online Tools Training link under each assessment.

Feedback collected from previous administrations indicates that students and teachers who utilized the OTTs and Sample Item Sets felt more prepared for online testing, students reported feeling confident about taking assessments online, and school administrators and teachers stated they experienced fewer issues related to online testing than students and teachers who did not take advantage of this resource.

#### **Recommended Sequence**

The OEAA recommends that classroom teachers introduce online testing to their students by playing the **Student Tutorial Video** in class to show students how the online testing system and tools work. Once the Student Tutorial Video is shown and discussed in the classroom, teachers then show the **Online Tools Training (OTTs)** to the entire class (doesn't have to be on the same day). After students have watched the Student Tutorial Video projected by the teacher, followed by watching the teacher navigate through the OTTs via a projector or other classroom viewing resource, each student should be provided hands-on practice with the online **Sample Item Sets** contained within the OTTs, ideally using the device they will use during testing.

The OEAA welcomes your feedback on the online resources.

#### **Sample Item Sets for Paper/Pencil Testers**

The OEAA has posted Paper/Pencil sample item sets for ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies on the M-STEP web page (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under the Content Specific Information section. Sample Item Sets contain grade-level sample items showing the types of items students may encounter on the actual test. The sets provide students practice in solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan's content standards. The Sample Items Sets are not considered "Practice Tests," as a practice test implies a test with the same number of items and similar level of difficulty as an actual test.

#### WIDA ACCESS for ELLs

#### **Online and Paper/Pencil Testers**

A number of resources are available on the <u>WIDA</u> <u>website</u> (wida.wisc.edu) to help <u>educators and</u> <u>students</u> (https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/access/preparing-students) become familiar with the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs testing experience for both online and paper/pencil. These resources include Student

Handouts, Online Speaking Guidance documents for educators, Online Test Demo, Interactive Sample Items for online testing, Online Test Practice, Paper-Based Sample Items, and Practice Speaking Questions for paper/pencil. Educators are strongly encouraged to review these resources with students.

# → SUPPORTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Michigan is committed to ensuring all students, including English Learners (ELs) and Students with Disabilities, have access to a wide array of tools for students with specific needs across all state assessments.

The tools are categorized into the following three tiers:

- Universal Tools: available for all students, use is student-driven
- Designated Supports: available when indicated by an educator or team
- Accommodations: available when need is documented in an IEP or 504 plan

Universal Tools include embedded default tools for an online assessment such as a highlighter or cross-off tool. A **Designated Support** may be Text-to-Speech (TTS), and an example of an **Accommodation** is a braille form of an assessment.

Along with making sure students have options for accessing the content of the assessments, Michigan must also ensure that these options do not provide an unfair advantage to students using them. Students must always be able to show their knowledge of a particular standard or skill. Calculators provide a perfect example of these concepts. Students are not always allowed to use a calculator on some sections or items on the mathematics assessment. This is due to specific standards being assessed. A student

allowed to use a calculator on these items would not actually be able to show whether or not they know how to do some calculations required by the standards. However, there are some items for which a calculator would be permitted for all students, such as when calculation is required, but is not the standard being measured.

As educators prepare for the state assessments, it's important to note that a Universal Tool for one content area and assessment may be an Accommodation for another content area or assessment (for example, a calculator). Similarly, a Designated Support may also be an Accommodation, depending on the content target (for example, scribe). This approach is consistent given the emphasis that Michigan's assessment programs have placed on the validity of assessment results coupled with access. Allowable Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations all yield valid scores that count as participation in statewide assessments when used in a manner consistent with Michigan's Supports and Accommodations policies and guidelines.

All policies and guidelines can be found under the **Student Supports and Accommodations** sections of each of the MDE assessment web pages. Additional information can also be found in each test administration manual.

#### **Making Decisions on an Individual Student Basis**

The selection of appropriate Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations must be done for all students in the classroom as well as for each assessment. The Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations used on the assessments should be ones the student is familiar with, and using during regular classroom instruction. A mismatch of supports offered can cause significant difficulties for students at the time of testing and potentially negatively impact student test scores.

For example, if a student is given the opportunity to take a mathematics assessment in Spanish but does not have sufficient literacy skills in the Spanish language, the student may struggle more than if he or she had taken the English version of the mathematics assessment. It is inappropriate for districts to make blanket decisions about assessment supports for particular student groups.

Accessibility decisions need to made on an individual basis. For students with disabilities, classroom and assessment decisions must be documented in the IEP.

For more information, review the resources on the M-STEP web page (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under Student Support and Accommodations.

# → TECH CORNER



#### **Online Testing Technology Information**

All online testing will use an updated version of the software from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) that was used in 2015 through 2021. The Technology User Guide and other support materials are available on the <a href="DRC INSIGHT Portal">DRC INSIGHT Portal</a> (formally known as eDIRECT) (https://mi.drcedirect.com).

The INSIGHT Secure Browser ("INSIGHT") is the secure browser students use. It prevents students from using other applications or visiting websites while testing. One INSIGHT installation works for all assessments, including M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments, WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, and WIDA Screener Online. INSIGHT will prompt for a one-click update if a newer version is available, or the latest version (12.0) can be mass-deployed.

For students taking the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments remotely, the INSIGHT Public Browser will be available, allowing testing from home during virtual instruction. This uses the standard Chrome web browser to allow testing with remote proctoring through standard web-conferencing tools.

INSIGHT is supported by a caching server called a Central Office Services (COS) Service Device. The local cache holds a secure copy of the test content so you download it once, saving bandwidth. COS Service Devices are now strongly recommended

rather than required. Any site with a large proportion of accommodated testing will still want to use a Service Device to help with audio and video downloads, while sites that have had ongoing technical problems with Service Devices may wish to consider the costs and benefits of testing in streaming mode.

One Service Device can serve for both M-STEP and WIDA, as well as serving multiple schools. COS comes with load balancing built in. This should allow fewer, simpler, and more reliable configurations that can be shared across buildings. Content Management for your Service Devices is in the <a href="DRC INSIGHT Portal">DRC INSIGHT Portal</a> (https://mi.drcedirect. com) under **Central Office Services**. Technology Coordinators can use the Portal to download software and installation manuals, manage content hosting, and set up configuration files for INSIGHT.

A wide range of devices is supported for Spring 2022 testing. Check the DRC INSIGHT System Requirements for online testing, or the Technology User Guide for all supported devices and operating systems. These documents can be accessed on the DRC INSIGHT Portal by selecting the Documents and Training Materials link. The main limiting factors are device RAM and operating system support. Older operating systems age out each year as their developers stop supporting them. Watch for updates in late October and February listing expected changes for 2022-2023.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Spring 2022 testing windows and dates for all summative online and paper/pencil assessments are included in this document. The table below shows the testing windows for the summative assessments.

# **Spring 2022 Testing Schedule for Summative Assessments**

	Week of															
Assessment	2/7- 2/11	2/14- 2/18	2/21- 2/25	2/28- 3/4	3/7- 3/11	3/14- 3/18	3/21- 3/25	3/28- 4/1	4/4- 4/8	4/11- 4/15	4/18- 4/22	4/25- 4/29	5/2- 5/6	5/9- 5/13	5/16- 5/20	5/23- 5/27
M-STEP Grades 3 (mathematics only), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11										6 weeks						
M-STEP Grade 3 (ELA only)										4 weeks						
M-STEP Paper/Pencil Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 (all subjects)										4 weeks						
MI-Access Alternate Assessments										7 weeks						
College Entrance: SAT w/Essay										4/13 Only		Makeup 4/26				
Accommodated Testing Window											4/13-26					
Work Skills: ACT WorkKeys										4/14 Only		Makeup 4/28				
Accommodated Testing Window											Initial 4/ Makeup					
PSAT 8/9 (grade 8)*										4/13 Only	Primary 4/13-19	Makeup 4/26-27				
Accommodated Testing Window										4/13-26						
PSAT 8/9 (grade 9) and PSAT 10**										4/13-19 Makeup 4/26-27						
Accommodated Testing Window											4/13-26					
WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs				7 weeks												

<sup>\*</sup> Schools must administer the PSAT 8/9 for grade 8 on April 13, 2022. The Primary window of 4/13-4/19 is available for students who were absent on 4/13 (unless students are approved with accommodations that designate them to test in the accommodated testing window).

- Schools can choose which date works best for them as the initial test day.
- The same grade must test on the same day at the same time.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Schools must administer the PSAT 8/9 for grade 9 and PSAT 10 on April 13-19, 2022 (unless students are approved with accommodations that designate them to test in the accommodated testing window).

# 2022 Summative Testing Schedule

for Online and Paper/Pencil Assessments

#### Students in grades 3-10 will be administered:

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3–7)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 8) (which provides ELA and mathematics results for accountability purposes)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 (grade 10)

# Grade 11 students will take the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which has three required components:

- SAT with Essay college entrance exam (which provides ELA and mathematics results for accountability purposes)
- 2. ACT WorkKeys workskills assessment
- 3. M-STEP science and social studies

#### **ONLINE Test Administration Dates**

#### M-STEP

Grades 3 (mathematics only), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and
 11: the online tests may be administered on any instructional day

April 11 - May 20, 2022

 Grade 3 (English language arts only): this online test may be administered on any instructional day

April 11 - May 6, 2022

#### **MI-Access Alternate Assessments**

 Grades 3–8 and 11: the online tests may be administered on any instructional day
 April 11 – May 27, 2022

# WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

 Grades 1–12: the online tests may be administered on any instructional day February 7 – March 25, 2022

**Note:** A normal instructional day takes place M–F from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Schools that provide regularly planned instruction that extends beyond 4 p.m. must complete an Alternate Insight Availability Request.

For online testing, not all students need to be administered the same assessment at the same time, nor on the same day.

#### **PAPER/PENCIL Test Administration Dates**

Paper/pencil assessments must be administered within the designated paper/pencil testing window for each assessment program.

#### M-STEP

 Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11: the paper/pencil tests may be administered on any instructional day during this 4-week window

April 11 - May 6, 2022

**Note:** Schools must select an initial test date for each grade and content area, and assess as many students as possible on that date. The remaining days in the paper/pencil window may be used for make-up testing of absent students. Students with accommodations may be tested flexibly throughout the window.

#### **MI-Access Alternate Assessments**

 Grades 3–8 and 11: the paper/pencil tests may be administered on any instructional day April 11 – May 27, 2022

# WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

 Grades K-12: the paper/pencil tests may be administered on any instructional day
 February 7 – March 25, 2022

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA)

Phone: 877-560-8378 
OEAA web page (www.michigan.gov/oeaa) 
Email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov