



Interpretive Guide to M-STEP Preliminary Reports

Spring 2021

April 2021



Preliminary Student Roster

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) Preliminary Student Roster Report provides preliminary information about student performance for online testers in English language arts, mathematics, and social studies. Preliminary performance information for science is not available on the 2021 reports because standard setting will happen after testing has concluded.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges to both instruction and assessment practices during the 2020-2021 school year. With this understanding, the data from the Spring 2021 M-STEP assessments should be used with caution.

NOTE ABOUT PRELIMINARY SCORES and WHY THEY MAY CHANGE FOR FINAL REPORTING

Scores presented in this report are preliminary and are subject to change. Preliminary scores are calculated using only machine-scored items available at the time the test is submitted. Scale scores and performance data presented in this report should not be taken as a final evaluation of a student's performance. Preliminary scores do not include constructed response (short answer or essay) items.

Each year, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) creates conversion tables to establish the relations between raw score points and scale scores. For each grade and content area, the scale scores are comparable across forms and years. Note, however, it is not comparable across grade levels, even for the same content area. For reporting preliminary scale scores, the prior year's final conversion tables are used. For the Spring 2021 administration, final conversion tables from 2019 are used due to the cancellation of Spring 2020 testing.

After the testing window closes, MDE calibrates all submitted data (by using valid cases only) to establish the relations between raw score points and scale scores to build the final conversion tables.

In this process, it is possible to find the same raw score points being associated with different scale scores (i.e., when the final conversion table is compared to the corresponding preliminary tables), which may or may not impact performance level cut scores.

The Preliminary Student Roster Report is for school use only and may not be shared with the public. This data should not be used for any high-stakes decisions (such as course placement, curricular evaluations, teacher evaluations).

NOTE ABOUT PRELIMINARY MATH SCORES

Math claims 2 and 4 are combined for final reporting. The combined score is not available for preliminary reporting.

NOTE ABOUT THE SCIENCE TEST

Science preliminary information is not available on the Spring 2021 Preliminary Student Roster report. This is because Spring 2021 is the first operational administration and there are no prior year conversion tables to apply to current year raw score data. Preliminary information for the operational science test will be available for future administrations.

NOTE ABOUT SCORES MARKED “NOT CURRENTLY REPORTABLE”

There are several reasons why a test may not be reportable at the time of preliminary reporting. In order to ensure that as many tests are scored as possible, please consider the following:

1. A student with incomplete, incorrect, or missing enrollment data in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) may not be reportable. Please ensure that the student a) has a UIC; b) is enrolled correctly in MSDS; and c) is enrolled in the correct grade in MSDS.
2. A student whose test is incomplete will not be reportable. In a small number of cases, this may be because a part of the test has not been correctly registered by the testing software yet, in which case the score will appear later. In other cases, the student’s entire test was not completed. For the most meaningful test results, it is suggested that assessment administrators encourage students to attempt to complete the entire test.
3. A student’s test is not reportable if the student a) engaged in prohibited behavior or b) used a nonstandard accommodation.

If reasons for unreportable scores can be resolved, then the score will appear.

Appropriate Uses of the Data in this Report

This report helps schools to:	Schools shouldn’t use this report to:
view preliminary overall above/below benchmark data	make program placement decisions for individual students that are not required by state law
view preliminary claim and discipline performance data	make decisions about continuous improvement goals and strategies for schools or districts
view grade 3 ELA preliminary Read by Grade 3 indicators to determine students who are eligible for retention based on the Read by Grade 3 legislation	share data with school boards or any other member of the public
download school or district-level data files that include grade 3 ELA Read by Grade 3 preliminary data	make day-to-day instructional decisions for individual students

Report Layout

The report is divided into four main sections:

- An alphabetical listing of the selected students
- Overall content performance in a table format
- Overall content performance in a graphical format
- Subscore performance (claim or discipline scores) in a graphical or table format

A Students (Total = 462)	B Preliminary Scale Score	B Preliminary Standard of Error	C Preliminary Scale Score		D			
			1301-1399 Below Benchmark	1400-1454 Above Benchmark	Reading	Writing	Listening	Research
Student, Demo A	1422	±6	[Visual Scale]		Above	Above	At/Near	At/Near
Student, Demo B	1409	±5	[Visual Scale]		Above	At/Near	At/Near	At/Near
Student, Demo C	1387	±6	[Visual Scale]		At/Near	At/Near	At/Near	At/Near
Student, Demo D	1362	±6	[Visual Scale]		Below	Below	Below	Below
Student, Demo E	1411	±6	[Visual Scale]		At/Near	At/Near	At/Near	At/Near
Student, Demo F	1330	±18	[Visual Scale]		Below	Below	Below	At/Near

Selected Students:

Students meeting the selected filter criteria are displayed in ascending alphabetical order by last name, then first name. The sort sequence may be changed to sort in descending alphabetical order. The following data is displayed in this section:

- Number of students displayed in the preliminary student roster. This represents all students who tested in the selected filters, including students with invalid tests.
- Student name as last name, first name, middle initial. Student name is sortable.
- By selecting the Information, or **i** icon, the following data are displayed:
 - Unique Identification Code (UIC)
 - Date of Birth (DOB)

UIC 0000000000 | DOB 11/24/20XX

Overall Content Performance (Table Format)

For each selected student, the following is displayed:

1. Preliminary Scale Score
2. Preliminary Standard Error (this is represented by the gray band in the graphic)

Overall Content Performance (Graphical Format)

The preliminary performance data for each selected student is also displayed in a graphical format.

1. Preliminary Scale Scores Ranges are color-coded bars (blue and yellow) which indicate the range of scores above and below the benchmark.
2. The Preliminary Scale Score is displayed by a vertical line, surrounded by a gray oval that shows the estimated range of scores the student would be expected to earn if the test was taken again. The width of the oval represents the Standard Error. The ranges of the benchmarks are provided.
3. Above or below benchmark is displayed for the tested content area. Students at or above the benchmark are considered proficient based on the preliminary data. Students below the benchmark are considered not proficient based on the preliminary data.

Sub-Score (Claim or Discipline) Performance

Claim performance levels are displayed for English language arts and mathematics. For social studies, points possible/points earned raw score data for each discipline is displayed. Each claim and discipline column is sortable.

Note: Claim performance indicator labels have changed for Spring 2021. This is only a change in the labels; calculations of claim performance have not changed from prior administrations.

Claim performance levels show student performance within each claim.

- **Above** indicates the student has surpassed the standard in the claim
- **At/Near** indicates the student is at or near meeting the standard in the claim
- **Below** indicates the student is below the standard in the claim

In mathematics, Claim 2 (Problem Solving) and Claim 4 (Modeling and Data Analysis) are combined for reporting purposes because of content similarity. There are still four claims, but only three claim scores will be reported with the overall math score.

In rare instances, an ELA and/or mathematics claim may contain an asterisk. This would occur if a student took a portion of the test sufficient to report an overall scale score but did not complete a sufficient number of items to fully evaluate the claim-level detail.

Michigan's Read by Grade 3 Law (MCL.2801.280.f) requires 3rd grade M-STEP ELA results be used to flag students who are eligible for retention.

On grade 3 ELA reports, the column to the right of the ELA claims displays the Read by Grade 3 Indicator based on preliminary scale score. Student tests are flagged as follows:

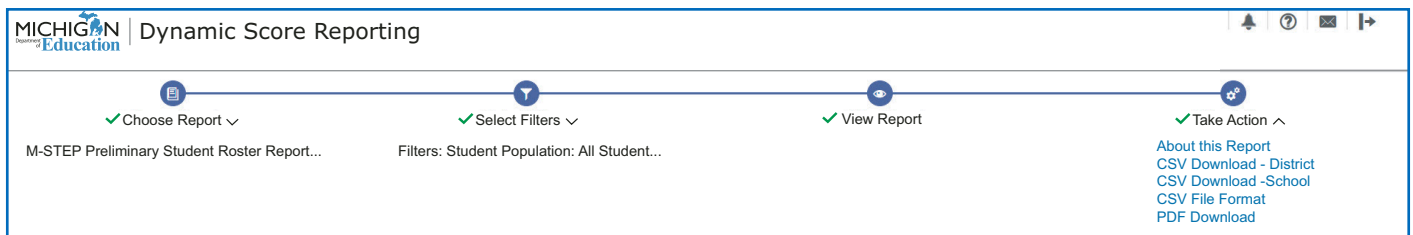
- **Preliminary scale score 1272 or above:** student **meets** the requirements of the Read by Grade 3 law for promotion to the 4th grade
- **Preliminary scale score between 1253 and 1271:** student needs additional reading **supports**
- **Preliminary scale score is 1252 or below:** student is eligible for 3rd grade **retention**

For more information about the requirements of the Read by Grade 3 legislation, visit the MDE [Early Literacy web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlyliteracy) (www.michigan.gov/earlyliteracy).

Menu Options

Filter option information is available in the [Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide](#).

Take Action



The screenshot shows the 'Dynamic Score Reporting' interface. At the top left is the Michigan Education logo. The main navigation bar includes: 'Choose Report' (with a dropdown arrow) showing 'M-STEP Preliminary Student Roster Report...'; 'Select Filters' (with a dropdown arrow) showing 'Filters: Student Population: All Student...'; 'View Report'; and 'Take Action' (with an upward arrow) which is expanded to show: 'About this Report', 'CSV Download - District', 'CSV Download - School', 'CSV File Format', and 'PDF Download'. Utility icons for notifications, help, email, and refresh are visible in the top right corner.

The take action menu contains the following options for the report:

- **About this Report** – this document
- **CSV Download** – downloadable file that contains all student data that is contained on the report, according to your selected filters.
- **CSV File Format** – file that describes the data contained in the CSV download.
- **PDF Download** – To view a pdf of the report, select “PDF Download”. This will open a pdf document of the reports, according to your selected filters.



- [Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide](#) – user guide that describes how to access and navigate the Dynamic Score Reporting Site
- [Interpretive Guide to M-STEP Preliminary Reports](#) – provides information on the interpretation and use of M-STEP reports

Report Features

Sort Options

There are several sort options available in the report:

- **Preliminary Scale Score** – Scale Score can be sorted from high to low by selecting once, if selected a second time the Preliminary Scale Score sorts in descending order.
- **Claims/Disciplines** – Claims (for English language arts [ELA] and mathematics) and Disciplines (for social studies) can be sorted individually. Selecting once sorts from high to low; selecting a second time will sort from low to high.
- **Read by Grade Three Indicator** – Read by Grade Three Indicator scores can be sorted from high to low on the first selection, if selected a second time, the Passage-based Writing Prompt score sorts from low to high.
- **Student Name** – The initial display of the report is in alphabetical order with invalid reports grouped at the bottom of the report. Users can select to sort in reverse alphabetical order; invalid reports will display at the top.

About the Data

- Preliminary Student Roster Reports are available for online test takers only.
- Tests may be marked “Not Currently Reportable” for several reasons:
 - » A student with incomplete, incorrect, or missing enrollment data in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) may not be reportable. Ensure that the student a) has a UIC; b) is enrolled correctly in MSDS; and c) is enrolled in the correct grade in MSDS.
 - » A student whose test is incomplete will not be reportable. In a small number of cases, this may be because a part of the test has not been correctly registered by the testing software yet, in which case the score will appear later. In other cases, the students’ entire test was not completed. It is suggested that assessment administrators encourage students to attempt to complete the entire test.
 - » A student’s test is not reportable if the student a) engaged in prohibited behavior or b) used a nonstandard accommodation.
- If the reason(s) for unreportable scores can be resolved, then the score will appear.
- For ELA and mathematics, a Claim Performance Indicators provide a visual representation of student performance.
 - » Light blue is Above Standard
 - » Yellow is At or Near Standard
 - » Orange is Below Standard

- In rare instances, an ELA and/or mathematics claim may be left blank. This would occur if a student took a portion of the test sufficient to report an overall scale score but did not complete a sufficient number of items to fully evaluate the claim-level detail.
- Social studies report discipline results as raw scores (points earned/points possible).
- Homeschool students are excluded from the reported results.
- Nonpublic students are included only on the school level reports. They are excluded from district and state level results.

Data Definitions

- **Benchmark:** The single proficiency cut in the scale score range that estimates whether a student did or did not meet the content expectations (based on preliminary data). The **Above Benchmark** (blue bar) indicates the student has met and exceeded the proficiency threshold, while the **Below Benchmark** (yellow bar) indicates the student has not yet met the proficiency threshold in the content expectations (based on preliminary data).
- **Claim:** Claims are used as a means to organize assessment targets. Claims apply to ELA and mathematics.
- **Discipline:** Disciplines are used as a means to organize content standards and expectations. Disciplines apply to social studies.
- **Standard Error:** Educational measurements are attempts to capture a student's true score, or ability, in the area being assessed. The standard error around the student score is an estimate of the range of scores one would expect if the student was to be measured repeatedly with parallel assessments.
- **Raw Score:** Points earned/total points possible. Raw scores are not comparable across different forms of the test.
- **Scale Score:** Scale scores are test scores that have been statistically adjusted to a common scale that allows scores to be compared across different forms of the test.

Privacy Notice: The Preliminary Student Roster Report contains federally protected student information. This report must be used in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

