

Questions and Answers

From MDE's August 16, 2018 webinar on Michigan's State Assessment System

Q: Are there any vendor-provided assessments that are automatically approved?

A: For early literacy assessments used to meet requirements in the Read by Grade Three law, districts should refer to the posted list of *initial* and *extensive* assessments at MDE's early literacy pages of the MDE website (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath).

For Interim/Benchmark assessments, districts should refer to the list of criteria spelled out in Section 104d and on MDE's [Fact Sheet on Benchmark and Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark_Assessment_Reimbursement_FACT_SHEET-2018-19_629763_7.pdf) (www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark_Assessment_Reimbursement_FACT_SHEET-2018-19_629763_7.pdf).

Q: How will M-STEP Science scores be used for accountability this year?

A: M-STEP Science is a mandatory field test for grades 5, 8, and 11, and will be used for participation measures in accountability.

Q: Will schools receive M-STEP science score reports for grades 5, 8, and 11?

A: The MDE provides the Science Field Test District Summary Report. MDE provides the average percentages of points earned by overall content area and per domain by district, ISD, and state. This is the only report that contains science field test data.

Q: Does MDE have a chart that shows total testing time per grade per subject?

A: Each year, the MDE Guide to State Assessments includes a chart of estimated average test times by program, grade, and subject. The 2019 Guide to State Assessments is currently under development and will include an updated chart that will be similar to the one posted for 2018. The only anticipated change is that the 8th grade M-STEP English language arts and the M-STEP mathematics assessment will be replaced with the PSAT 8/9.

Q: Do districts get to determine when and how often vendor-provided benchmark assessments will be administered?

A: Yes. Decisions about how and when to administer vendor-provided benchmark assessments are locally determined.

Q: Can Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments be used only twice (spring and fall), even though MDE offers it also in Winter?

A: They are intended to be used three times a year.

Q: Is there a required number of grades that must be included when administering and requesting reimbursement for Interim Benchmark assessments? For example, could a district purchase a vendor-provided assessment for use in grades 3-7 only?

A: Districts determine interim benchmark administration decisions, in collaboration with their chosen provider. Districts can apply for reimbursement based on the number of students assessed (one assessment per student).

Q: Can 8th and 9th graders be tested in the same room?

A: The PSAT can be administered to 8th and 9th graders at the same time, in the same room **for 2019 only.**

Q: Will PSAT 8 be used instead of M-STEP for student proficiency and growth reporting for English language arts and mathematics?

A: Yes, PSAT 8 will be used for accountability reporting for English language arts and mathematics.

Q: Is there a plan to calculate and communicate student growth percentile (SGP) data for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT?

A: Yes, MDE is working on that right now and hopes to be able to provide SGP data when 2019 PSAT scores are available.

Q: Is there a plan to release items for M-STEP so test scores can inform instruction?

A: In place of released items, the MDE posts sample grade-level test items in the Sample Item Sets embedded in the Online Tools Tutorials (OTT). Go to www.michigan.gov/mstep

Q: If our district uses NWEA K-8, would we qualify for reimbursement for those assessments?

A: Yes, assuming the NWEA product you choose meets the criteria spelled out in the law and the district meets all specified deadlines. For details, refer to the [Fact Sheet on Interim and Early Literacy Assessment Reimbursement](#) (www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Benchmark_Assessment_Reimbursement_FACT_SHEET-2018-19_629763_7.pdf)

Q: Is the testing schedule posted to the MDE website?

A: Yes. You can access the testing schedule on the OEAA webpage and on each assessment's web page. The direct link is:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Testing_Schedule_2019_624387_7.pdf

Q: Can you give an explanation of the Adequate Growth Percentile versus the Student Growth Percentile? How should this data be used (and not used)?

A: You can learn more about measuring, reporting, and describing student growth on the MDE website:

Accountability/ Information on Student Growth in Michigan:

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-81376_59490-298094--,00.html

Educator Evaluation/Student Growth Page:

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_75438_78528-399514--,00.html

Q: When will the 2019 Guide to State Assessments be available on the MDE website?

A: Many questions from today's webinar can be answered in the 2019 Guide to State Assessments, typically released in early fall of each year.