

Michigan's Future Assessment System



Overview

Michigan's future assessment system is a robust, three-part system aligned to state standards, designed to measure student achievement in English language arts (reading and writing), mathematics, science and social studies. A college entrance exam and work skills test also will be included in the new high school assessment.

This comprehensive assessment system will provide accurate, in-depth and timely student performance and growth information to meet state and federal accountability requirements and provide educators with the tools they need to help students graduate from high school, career- and college-ready.

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, Michigan is moving the administration of its annual summative assessments from the fall to the spring of each school year. This will allow student measurement to be based upon current versus prior year learning.

New assessments will replace, the 40-year old Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) currently administered in grades 3-9 and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) given to high school juniors.

Building Better Assessments

To provide quicker, more meaningful results to educators, parents, and students, this assessment system will begin Michigan's transition from primarily paper and pencil tests to online assessments. Paper and pencil tests will be available for those schools not yet ready to deliver tests online. The English language arts and mathematics tests are computer adaptive

tests (CAT) that are tailored to individual students for a more precise, efficient measure of each student's achievement.

Michigan's emerging assessment system provides for measurement that goes beyond the traditional, multiple-choice item format to include more extended response items, technology-enhanced items, and performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate higher order critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

This new system provides essential types of data and measurement information necessary to support career, college and community readiness for all students. Major benefits will include:

- *Faster reporting of results to educators, parents, and students than paper/pencil testing by leveraging available technology for administration, scoring, and reporting.*
- *Supporting local evaluation and accountability systems by providing multiple measures of student growth and achievement.*
- *More comprehensive and meaningful assessment data to guide instruction, policy, curriculum and professional development decisions.*
- *All assessments fully aligned with Michigan's state standards in all content areas.*
- *Instructionally relevant exemplar lesson plans, sample items, and other resources specifically designed to guide the formative assessment process.*

Building a High Quality Multiple Assessment System

This new system was developed by the Michigan Department of Education’s nationally-recognized Office of Standards and Assessment and builds upon Michigan’s historically strong student assessment program. Recognizing the importance of a balanced, high-quality multiple assessment system, three types of assessments: summative; interim and formative will improve teaching and learning by providing timely and meaningful information and tools for teachers and schools to help students succeed.

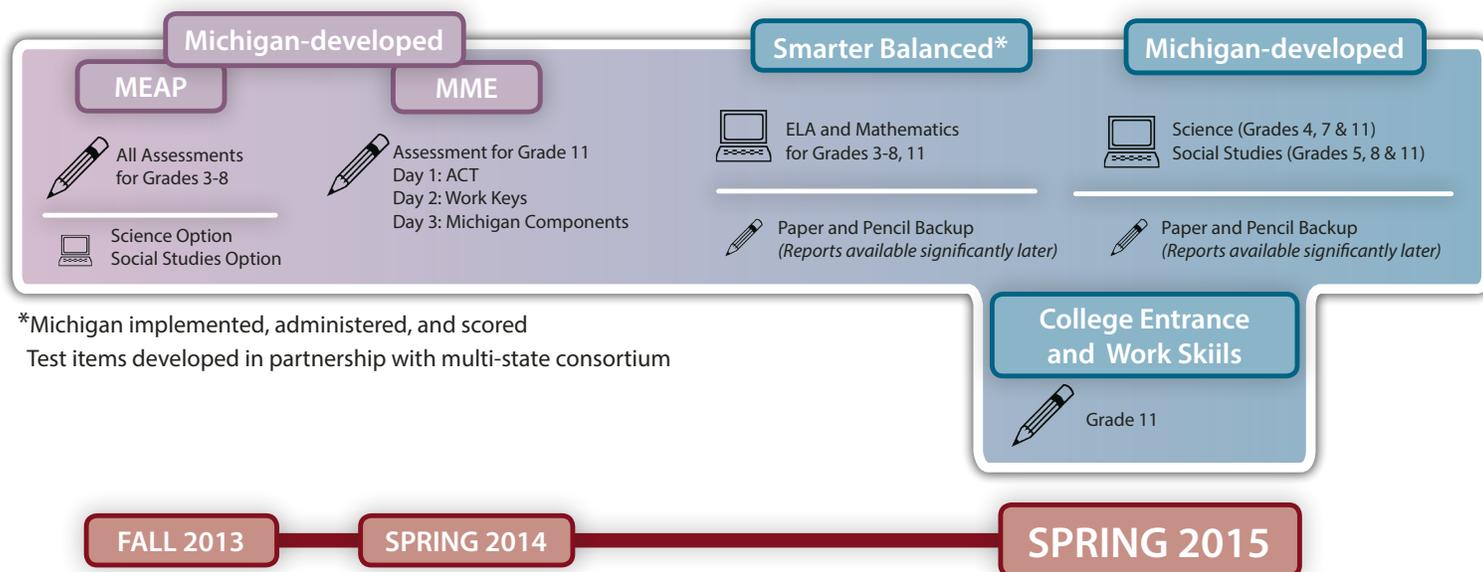
As in the past, a vast majority of our assessment system is developed, implemented, administered and scored by the department including all Science and Social Studies assessments. While the department manages most elements of English Language Arts and mathematics assessments, new test questions have been developed in partnership with numerous other states participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Michigan is a governing member of this consortium and currently has a representative serving as the executive committee co-chair.

Summative Assessments (Required) are assessments given to most students once per year to measure what students are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels and in specific content areas to be on-track for career- and college-readiness by the time they graduate from high school. This can be used as one measure of student growth to support local evaluation and accountability systems. In addition, they are used to meet state and federal reporting requirements.

Interim Assessment (Optional) – will provide indicators of student progress throughout the year by comparing performance to state standards. It is used by educators to (1) evaluate where students are in their learning progress and (2) determine whether they are on track to performing well on future assessments, such as standardized tests or end-of-course exams.

Formative Assessment Process (Optional) – is used by teachers and students to gather feedback and adjust teaching and learning practices.

Michigan’s Summative Statewide Assessments Transition



*Michigan implemented, administered, and scored
Test items developed in partnership with multi-state consortium