



## Overview of Michigan's Approved Accountability Waiver for the 2020-21 School Year

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) submitted a [request on January 25, 2021](#) to the United States Department of Education (USED) to waive the federally-required spring 2021 summative assessments (WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, WIDA Alternate ACCESS, MI-ACCESS, PSAT 8/9 for Grade 8, M-STEP, and SAT) and also waive federally-required school accountability reports for the 2020-21 school year.

✓ ***USED approved MDE's request to waive 2020-21 federal school accountability requirements.***

✗ ***USED denied MDE's request to waive the federal requirement to administer spring 2021 summative assessments.***

### Key Points on Michigan's Approved Federal Accountability Waiver

- The MDE will not be required to calculate and report the results of Michigan's federal school accountability system: the [Michigan School Index \(www.mi.gov/mde-schoolindex\)](http://www.mi.gov/mde-schoolindex) for the 2020-21 school year.
- The MDE will not be required to identify schools for [Comprehensive Support and Improvement \(CSI\)](#), [Targeted Support and Improvement \(TSI\)](#), or [Additional Targeted Support \(ATS\)](#) based on 2020-21 school year data.
- The MDE will still be required to publish the [Annual Education Report \(AER\)](#) which will include aggregated proficiency and participation rates.
- The MDE will still be required to report on chronic absenteeism (an element of the Michigan School Index) despite School Index reports otherwise being waived.
- The MDE will still be required to calculate and report [Michigan School Grades \(www.mi.gov/mde-schoolgrades\)](http://www.mi.gov/mde-schoolgrades) as required by state law; currently not waived by the Governor and Legislature.

### Key Points on Michigan's Denied Federal Assessment Waiver

- Schools are expected to administer the state assessments.
- Schools that are 100% virtual/remote must offer testing just as traditional/in-person schools do with physical locations available for students to be present for testing as desired.
- Districts must offer remote or virtual students the opportunity to take the appropriate state assessments.
- Remote-only students are not required to come into school for the sole purpose of taking the assessments.
- For more information on upcoming spring 2021 assessments, please review the latest [Spring 2021 Assessment FAQs](#), [MDE memos](#), and weekly [Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability](#).