

Return to Learn Legislation and Benchmark Assessments

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)



Housekeeping

In order to provide the best viewing environment, all participants are muted.

If you have questions, please enter them in the Chat function and we will address as many as time permits at the end of the presentation.

This presentation is being recorded and will be posted to the MDE COVID-19 Education Information and Resources website.

Objectives

Understand what the Return to Learn legislation, Public Act 149, says about benchmark assessments

What options are provided under the law?

Additional assessment-related considerations for the 2020-21 school year that are not addressed by the Return to Learn law

Where can districts find help related to benchmark assessments?

What does the Return to Learn law (Public Act 149) say about benchmark assessments?

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan



Districts are required to create an extended COVID-19 learning plan for the 2020-21 academic year

- Required in order to receive state aid [98a(1)]
- Provide educational goals expected to be achieved in the current academic year [98a(2)(b)]
 - Which goals are expected to be achieved by the middle of the school year and which by the end of the school year?
 - Goals must include increased pupil achievement, or growth if it can be validly and reliably measured, using a benchmark assessment(s)

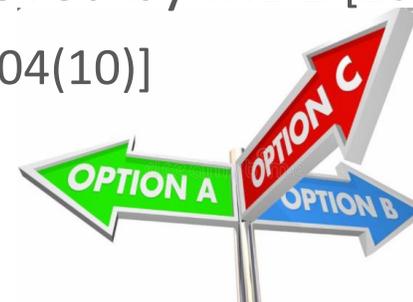


Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

The goals must include an assurance that the district shall **select a benchmark assessment** or benchmark assessments that are **aligned to state standards** and an assurance that the district shall administer the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments to **all pupils** as prescribed under section 104 to **determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards.**

Benchmark Assessment Provisions

- Districts shall administer a benchmark assessment or assessments [104(8)]
 - Administer to all students in grades K-8
 - Measure proficiency in reading and mathematics
 - Pre-test administration within first 9 weeks of school year
 - Post-test administration no later than last day of school year
 - Benchmark assessment options include:
 - Benchmark assessment from a provider list approved by MDE [104(9)]
 - Assessment that provides progress monitoring [104(10)]
 - Local benchmark assessment
 - Combination of the above



Approved Assessment Providers

- MDE shall approve 4 to 5 benchmark providers [104(9)]
- Criteria for selection:
 - a) 1 of the most commonly administered benchmark assessments in the state
 - b) Aligned to state content standards
 - c) Complement the state's summative assessment system
 - d) Internet-delivered and
 - include a standards-based assessment
 - using a computer-adaptive model

Approved Assessment Providers

- Selection criteria continued:
 - e) Provide information on student achievement regarding the learning of content in a given year or grade span
 - f) Provide immediate feedback to students and teachers
 - g) Nationally normed
 - h) Provide multiple measures of growth
--and –
provide for multiple testing opportunities

Approved Provider List

The following benchmark assessment providers have been approved by MDE:

- Curriculum Associates
(iReady)
- Data Recognition Corp (DRC)
(Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments)
- NWEA
(MAP)
- Renaissance Learning
(STAR)

Free Benchmark Assessment

MDE will make available one benchmark assessment from the approved provider list at **no cost to districts** [104(14)]

- The **Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments** will be provided at no cost to districts through the existing DRC administration contract
- The **Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments** include:
 - Interim Assessments – includes of 3 types of interim assessments based on the granularity of the content the assessed
 - Tools for Teachers – provides access to a suite of tools and resources for teachers

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

- The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments are available in ELA and math for grades 3 – 8
- The [August 27, 2020 Spotlight](#) provided additional detail on the Smarter Interims
- Additional information will be provided by DRC upon request.

Assessments Providing Progress Monitoring

- Districts may choose a “benchmark assessment” that provides **progress monitoring tools** and **enhanced diagnostics** [104(10)]
 - Meets the requirements in Section 104(8)
 - Reading in grades K-9
 - Mathematics in grades K-8
 - Examples:
 - Acadience (formerly DIBELS)
 - AIMSWEB

Local Benchmark Assessments

Districts may administer a local benchmark assessment [104(8)(a)]

- Option is available for students in grades K-8
- Should measure proficiency in reading and mathematics
- Exempt from aggregate data requirements in subsection 12
- There are reporting requirements with this option [104(15)]
 - What local benchmark assessment(s) was administered
 - How the assessment(s) measures change in learning, including learning loss
 - The district's plan to address any learning losses
 - This information must be reported to MDE and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) in a form and manner determined by CEPI

Consistency is Encouraged

- To the extent practical, administer the same benchmark or benchmarks administered in prior years [104(11)]
 - Allows for consistent data
 - To assist with informing decisions focused on learning for all students
 - Performing reasonable comparisons over time
 - Applies to all assessments allowed under this law
 - Benchmark assessments from approved provider list
 - Progress monitoring assessments
 - Local benchmark assessments

Parental Reporting

Districts must provide the results of the benchmark assessment(s) to the student's parent or legal guardian within 30 days of the test administration [104(13)]

Data Requirements

- Districts shall send aggregate district-level benchmark data to the Michigan Data Hub [104(12)]
 - Intended use: Determine loss of learning, if any, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Data may not be used for accountability purposes
 - Data must be provided to the Data Hub by June 30, 2021
 - MDE and CEPI must provide report not later than August 1, 2021
 - Number and percentage of students who are significantly behind grade level
 - MDE, CEPI, and the Data Hub will be working together to better understand the requirements of this subsection of the law

Michigan Data Hub Integration

How can my district best prepare to meet the benchmark requirements via the MiDataHub?

Work with your technical staff to:

- Check the status of your district in the [ISD and District Participation spreadsheet](#).
 - If you are connected to the MiDataHub, your district will show as “Active” in the Status column and with a “1” in the Live column.
- Verify your benchmark assessment data is flowing into the MiDataHub
- Ensure that your SIS is sending good quality/accurate data for the 2020-21 school year to the MiDataHub.

Michigan Data Hub Integration

What if my benchmark assessment provider is not supported by the MiDataHub?

- MIDataHub is currently working with NWEA, Curriculum Associates, and Renaissance Learning to meet the requirements of the RTL law
- MDE will work with DRC and the MiDataHub to ensure integration

How do I get help or further assistance?

- Email support@michigandatahub.org
- Call 269-250-9240
 - If you reach voicemail, please leave a message

What other assessment-related considerations are there for the 2020-21 school year?

Other Assessment Considerations

- Statewide implementation of the Michigan kindergarten entry observation tool (MKEO) will be suspended for the 2020-21 academic year [sec. 104(4)]
- Unless the US Department of Education grants MDE's waiver request, statewide summative assessment is still required in Spring 2021
- Districts are still required to screen K-3 students
 - The Read by Grade Three (RBG3) law remains in effect
 - The initial and extensive assessments districts have been using are covered under the three benchmark assessment options

Other Assessment Considerations

- Districts must remain compliant with student IEPs regarding the administration of alternate assessments
 - Reach out to assessment providers on the approved list for options
 - Consider the use of local assessments
 - For students for whom a commercial benchmark assessment is not appropriate (such as a student with a significant cognitive disability or who is not able to engage in an online assessment), use whatever assessment is typically use to monitor progress for the student.

Other Assessment Considerations

- Districts are still required to identify English Learners
 - [In-Person WIDA Screening Considerations for 2020/2021](#)
 - [Temporary Guidance for Identifying Potential English Learners During Remote Learning](#)
 - Both documents are located on the WIDA web page at www.michigan.gov/wida

Other Assessment Considerations

Fall testing opportunities with College Board

- The following assessments are offered under [Executive Order 2020-65](#)

Updated Fall 2020 Testing Dates			
2019-20 Grade	2020-21 Grade	Assessment	Test Dates/Window
8	9	PSAT 8/9	Choose any date between September 21–October 29
9	10	PSAT/NMSQT	October 14 and/or October 29 and/or January 26, 2021
10	11	PSAT/NMSQT	October 14 and/or October 29 and/or January 26, 2021
11	12	SAT with Essay	September 23 and/or October 14 and/or October 27

- Information including flexibility options are located on the MME and PSAT web pages at www.michigan.gov/mme and www.michigan.gov/psat

Where can I find help and more information?

Contact Information for Approved Providers

Benchmark Provider	Contact Information
NWEA	michigan@nwea.org
Curriculum Associates	<p>Jeff Tompkins 313-316-0141 Jtompkins@cainc.com (Genesee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties)</p> <hr/> <p>Vikki Halstead 989-577-0305 Vhalstead@cainc.com (Rest of State)</p>

Benchmark Provider	Contact Information
Renaissance Learning	<p>Aaron Hartman 586-533-1107 Aaron.Hartman@renaissance.com</p>
Data Recognition Corporation	<p>Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (grades 3-8) 877-560-8378 option 2 misupport@datarecognitioncorp.com</p> <hr/> <p>Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (grades K-2) 877-560-8378 option 3 mde-oeaa@michigan.gov</p>

- State Board of Education & Superintendent
- Strategic Plan
- Academic Standards
- Career and Technical Education
- Early Learners and Care
- Educator Services
- Family Engagement
- Flexible Learning Options
- Food & Nutrition Programs
- Grants
- Health & Safety
- MDE Operations
- School Performance & Supports
- Special Education
- State Aid & School Finance
- Student Assessment
- Assessment Integrity and Security
- Benchmark Assessments - Return to Learn**
- Early Literacy and Mathematics
- Formative Assessment Process
- MI-Access
- MME
- M-STEP Summative
- National Assessment of Educational Progress
- PSAT
- Secure Site Training

MDE / STUDENT ASSESSMENT / BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS - RETURN TO LEARN

Benchmark Assessments

For "Return to Learn" Legislation (PA 149)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION - PLEASE CHECK BACK FOR UPDATES

Contact OEAA

Michigan's "Return to Learn" legislation ([Public Act 149 sec. 104.9](#)) was signed into law on August 20, 2020. As part of the required COVID-19 plans, districts must identify educational goals expected to be achieved for learners during the 2020-21 academic year. The law states: the Goals must include an assurance that the district shall select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that are aligned to state standards and an assurance that the district shall administer the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments to all pupils as prescribed under section 104 to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards.

The assessment(s) must be administered to all pupils in grades K-8 within the first nine weeks of school to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics. MDE will make available one of the benchmark assessments by a provider named at no cost to districts.

Communications

- Deputy Superintendent MEMO # COVID-19-095 Benchmark Assessment Announcement
- Spotlight Article - Benchmark Providers, August 27, 2020
- Spotlight Article - Return to Learn Legislation and Benchmark Assessments, September 3, 2020

Benchmark Resources

- Benchmark Assessment Webinar
 - PowerPoint Presentation

Legislative Actions

- Public Act 147
- Public Act 148
- Public Act 149

Assessment Options by Provider

Benchmark Provider	Contact Information
NWEA	michigan@nwea.org
Curriculum Associates	Jeff Tompkins 313-316-0141 jtompkins@cainc.com Genesee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne Counties
	All other counties: Vikki Halstead 989-577-0305
Renaissance Learning	Aaron Harlman Renaissance 586-533-1107 www. RenaissanceLearning.com
Data Recognition Corporation*	Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (grades 3-8) 877-560-8378 online.2

New webpage to address Benchmark Assessments in the context of the Return to Learn legislation

Stay Informed

Spotlight

MICHIGAN
Department of
Education

on Student Assessment and Accountability

August 27, 2020

Quick Links... take you directly to articles or sections...

- MDE-Approved Benchmark Providers under Public Act 149 sec. 104.9
- Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Offered to Districts Free of Charge
- New Alternate Content Expectations for Science are Here!
- 2019-2020 Graduation Rate Appeals Window
- Allowlisting
- OEAA Invites Input from Spotlight Readers and Their Frontline Educators
- College Board Corner
- ACT WorkKeys
- Important Dates
- Contacts

Key:  Reminder (previously run article)

 Includes Information Tech Coordinators need to know

MDE-Approved Benchmark Providers Under Public Act 149 sec. 104.9

On August 20, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Public Act 149 into law, as part of Michigan's "Return to Learn" legislation. On August 21, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) shared information pertaining to benchmark assessments in a [memo](#) to local and intermediate school district superintendents and public school academy directors.

[Public Act 149](#) requires that the Michigan Department of Education approve at least four but no more than five providers of benchmark assessments to meet the requirements of this legislation. The approved providers are:

- NWEA
- Curriculum Associates
- Renaissance Learning
- Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)

In addition, the law requires that MDE make one of the benchmark assessments available by a provider at no cost to districts. MDE will make available the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (administered through MDE's administration contract with DRC) at no additional cost to districts. MDE will also continue to provide MDE's early literacy assessments for grades K-2 at no cost to districts, as has been the case since 2017.

Districts that want to learn more about the products these vendors provide and to receive information on ordering and administering these assessments to their students can use the contact information on the following page.

(Continued on next page)

Sign up to receive weekly Spotlight issues to stay up-to-date on all things assessment related at:

www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight

You'll find:

- Date Reminders
- Assessment Task Reminders
- Administration Updates
- Report Information
- Assessment Literacy Corner
- Much more!

► [Sign up for Spotlight \(www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight\)](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) and/or access previous editions

Following Today

- A recording of this webinar and the PowerPoint slides will be posted on the **MDE COVID-19 Education Information and Resources** website.

Read by Grade 3	Benchmark Assessments	Pupil Accounting
9/9/2020 12:00 PM	9/10/2020 12:00 P	9/8/2020 12:00 PM
9/17/2020 2:00 PM	9/15/2020 2:00 PM	9/16/2020 2:00 PM

[Technical Support Webinar memo](#)

Questions?

Contact us at:

- E-mail: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov
- Phone: 1-877-560-8378
Option 3

Q and A
enter questions in chat

