

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

December 18, 2014

Quick Links

- Spring 2015 Student Supports and Accommodations Documents NOW available
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- Spring 2015 MME- ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys Accommodations Summary Table
- Responses to 12/9/14 ACT Test Administration Q & A Session
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Reminders

Recently Asked Questions



The Spotlight will be taking a Holiday Break.

The next edition will be published January 8, 2014.

Spring 2015 Student Supports and Accommodations Documents Now Available

The Office of Standards and Assessments (OSA) has posted several new documents which have been developed to provide meaningful NEW information and updates on students supports and accommodations.

Documents include:

- [M-STEP, MI-Access, and WIDA Student Supports and Accommodations Table](#)
- [M-STEP Math and English language arts \(ELA\) Read-Aloud Guidelines](#)
- [M-STEP and MI-Access Bilingual Word-to-Word Glossaries List](#)
- [M-STEP, MI-Access, and WIDA Scribing Protocol](#)

These documents outline important changes, including:

- Some supports that previously had been considered an accommodation are now considered a test administration practice. They are found on page one of the M-STEP, MI-Access, and WIDA Student Supports and Accommodations Table.

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► Sign up for Spotlight at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>. Enter your email address, select Spotlight under Student Assessment.

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.

- A student does not need to have these practices outlined on an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) in order for a school to use them with a student or groups of students. However, if the need for a support is listed on the IEP (as a need or accommodation), it **must** be provided for the student.

The M-STEP Student Supports and Accommodations Table is organized by program, and separated by:

- Universal Supports - Available to All Students
- Designated Supports - A designation made by a teacher or administrator that works with the student; does not require an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.
- Accommodations - Requires designation by an IEP or Section 504 plan; must be provided.

For students with an IEP, it is important to remember that the IEP indicates student need. If there is a support that is listed as an accommodation on the IEP, that is now an administration practice, universal support or designated support, there are no changes that need to be made to the IEP. It just means that the school must provide that support to the student.

WIDA Test Exceptions and False LEPs

A new process has been created for administrators to request test exceptions, or waivers, from the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for English Learner (ELs).

EL students that are also Students with Disabilities (SWDs) or students who were incorrectly designated as Limited English Proficient (LEP) may qualify for a test exception.

Detailed guidelines and specific directions for requesting a test exception can be found here: http://mi.gov/documents/mde/WIDA_ACCESS_for_ELLs_and_Alternate_ACCESS_for_ELLs_Test_Exceptions_Final_12.17.14_477031_7.pdf?20141218135451.

Spring 2015 Michigan Merit Examination - ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys Accommodations Summary Table

The Spring 2015 Michigan Merit Examination (MME) consists of the ACT Plus Writing, three ACT WorkKeys® tests (Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information), and M-STEP for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The Spring 2015 MME-ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys Accommodations Summary Table is available at http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/12.18.15_Accommodations_Summary_Table_2015_3_477066_7.pdf?20141218141149.

Responses to 12/9/14 ACT Test Administration Q & A Session

Numerous questions were asked during a recent ACT Test Administration Q & A session. Responses are posted at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Questions_from_12.9.14_MDE-ACT_QandA_477063_7.pdf?20141218140314.

For information on student eligibility, please see the chart on the next page.

Student Test Taking Requirements for the Michigan Merit Examination

The complete MME includes ACT Plus Writing; WorkKeys; and the M-STEP ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies tests. To respond to recent questions on students required, eligible, and not eligible to take or retake the Michigan Merit Exam we have developed the chart below.

Students Required, Eligible and Not Eligible to take or retake the Michigan Merit exam (MME)		
Students REQUIRED to Take the Complete Michigan Merit Exam	Students ELIGIBLE , but not required, to Take or Retake the Michigan Merit Exam	Students NOT ELIGIBLE to Take the Michigan Merit Exam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 11th grade students, including foreign exchange students, attending a public school except those who were included in Grade 11 accountability calculations in a prior year. <p>Note: 11th grade foreign exchange students will count in accountability calculations for participation and proficiency.</p> <p>Exception – If student’s Individualized Education program (IEP) indicates student should take an alternate assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homebound, hospitalized, incarcerated or suspended students receiving instructional services must take the MME at the place where they receive their instruction. All 12th grade students not previously included in accountability calculations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11th grade students who do not have valid scores in one or more MME subjects. 12th grade foreign exchange students are eligible but not expected to test for accountability purposes. Non-public 11th grade students – if school is administering complete MME. Homeschool students may participate through their local school. 12th grade students who were previously included in accountability calculations, but do not have valid scores in one or more MME subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11th or 12th grade students who have previously taken the complete MME and achieved a performance level of 1–4 in each subject area. Students no longer enrolled.

For additional information, please see http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_HS_Grade_Assignment_for_Accountability_346186_7.pdf?20141202151018 for frequently asked questions regarding this policy or contact the Office of Standards and Assessment at (877) 560-8378.

Just a reminder...Important Dates!

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.

December 2014

- Student Pre-Identification is open for Spring 2015 ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys. See related article on page 2 of the [December 12, 2014 Spotlight](#).
- WIDA Pre-ID and Materials Order is open. See instructions on page 6 of the [November 20, 2014 Spotlight](#).
- Now – February 11, 2015 - Window for ACT to receive ACT- Approved Accommodations Late Consideration Form. For questions, please contact ACT by phone at 800-553-6244 ext.1788 or via email at ACTStateAccoms@act.org.

January 2015

- **January 5, 2015:** Deadline to submit Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files through MSDS to be reflected in the Spring 2015 M-STEP Pre-ID load.
- **January 9, 2015:** Last date to Pre-ID students for **ACT Plus Writing and WorkKeys** to receive pre-printed barcode labels. Schools will be required to print barcode labels for students pre-identified after January 9, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
- **January 9, 2015:** Last date to Pre-ID students for WIDA. The student's barcode number will be required to be bubbled on the student's answer document for students pre-ID in the Secure Site after January 9, 2015. Student barcode labels cannot be printed from the Secure Site for the WIDA assessment.

It is also the last day to order WIDA Braille and enlarged print materials on the secure site. Once the Pre-ID window closes on January 9, 2015, all orders will need to be placed directly with MetriTech (WIDA's material vendor).

January 6–13, 2015:

- Test coordinators confirm ACT Plus Writing enrollment number.
- Order WorkKeys standard time and accommodated materials via the ACT Establishment and Ordering system (OTIS).

Additional information is forthcoming from ACT.

- **January 12, 2015:** Student Pre-Identification opens for Spring 2015 M-STEP and MI-Access Assessments for students in grades 3–8 and 11.
- **January 14, 2015:** ACT Test Administration Q & A Session. Registration information was sent to ACT test coordinators the week of November 23rd. For questions, please contact ACT by phone at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 or via the Contact Us page at <http://www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html>.
- **Late January:** Material orders for paper/pencil open for Spring 2015 M-STEP and MI-Access for students in grades 3–8 and 11.

Topics in Last Week's Spotlight

To access the following *What's New* articles from last week's Spotlight edition, go to: [December 12, 2014 Spotlight](#).

- **Online Waiver Request Results show 86% of schools opted to administer M-STEP online** — page 1
- **Opportunity to Try Out the New Model High School Arts Assessments!**—page 4
- **M-STEP Spring Preview is Now Available** — page 5

Recently Asked Questions

I understand there will be performance tasks at each grade, and that there will be performance tasks in both ELA and Math.

In an earlier Spotlight, I read that schools have the option of not administering the performance tasks to students in grade 11 due to the Michigan Merit Examination legislation that prohibits the requirement of students being assessed more than one extended response item. Does this grade 11 option apply to both Math and ELA?

Performance Tasks (and their accompanying classroom activities) are recommended but not required for students in grade 11, as state law prohibits the requirement of more than one extended-response item on the Michigan Merit Examination.

However, because a single extended response item is likely insufficient to achieve alignment to Michigan's high school standards, it is unclear whether the U.S. Department of Education will allow results without Performance Tasks to count for accountability purposes.

Please refer to the Spotlight issue on [December 4, 2014](#) for information on the summative Mathematics assessment, and the [November 20, 2014](#) issue for information on the summative ELA assessment.

Can you specify what the consequences might be if schools/districts decide not to administer the performance tasks?

How will this affect setting cut scores?

How will this impact the school's and district's Accountability calculation?

At this time, the consequences of not administering the performance tasks in regards to school and district accountability are not known. MDE is awaiting guidance from the U.S. Department of Education which should clarify required assessment components under NCLB Flexibility.

When administering paper/pencil assessments, can students test at different times of the day or do schools need to test all students at the same time?

Schools administering the M-STEP via paper/pencil must administer each test part on the date specified in the paper/pencil testing schedule at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_Testing_Schedule_Update_464310_7.pdf.

The school can determine the time to begin the test administration on the specified date, but all students in the building must test at the same time.

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Recently Asked Questions

How do educators prepare students for both the spring 2015 and spring 2016 summative assessments?

Over the past several years, educators have been working hard to align classroom lesson plans and local curricula with English language arts and mathematics academic standards passed by the State Board of Education in 2010. These standards will be assessed beginning in the spring of 2015.

Michigan's standards in social studies and science were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2007. State summative assessments in science and social studies are aligned to these Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) in grades 3-8, and aligned to the High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) in grade 11.

While the department is in the process of selecting an assessment system to be administered in the Spring of 2016, be assured that Michigan's summative assessments will continue to measure the state's standards, and will include technology-enhanced item types that students testing online will experience this spring.

► *Prior Recently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently_Asked_Questions_470957_7.pdf.*