Classroom Activities Eliminated

The Office of Standards and Assessment has decided to remove the classroom activities associated with the mathematics and English language arts (ELA) Performance Tasks (PT). In the last few months, the performance tasks in all grades underwent extensive review to determine if the classroom activity associated with the performance task was crucial to student understanding the context of the performance task. The ELA performance tasks were determined to have sufficient embedded resources to allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do without participating in a preceding classroom activity. Similarly, most of the mathematics performance tasks can stand on their own without a classroom activity. However, the review documented four mathematics performance tasks for which the classroom activities are likely necessary additional supports for students. Those four PTs have been removed from the pool of available performance tasks.

For the Spring 2016 M-STEP administration, the mathematics assessment will continue to contain performance tasks at grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, but there will no longer be classroom activities to administer. The updated ELA assessment will contain performance tasks at grades 5 and 8 only, which will no longer require classroom activities.
Pre-ID for SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP (grades 3–8 and HS)

The Division of Accountability Services (DAS) will pre-identify, in the Secure Site, students using the Fall 2015 MSDS General Collection and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files submitted through January 7, 2016 for the following state assessments.

- All students in grades 3–8 will be pre-identified for M-STEP
- All students in grades 9 and 10 will be pre-identified for PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10
- All students in grade 11 and required students in grade 12 will be pre-identified for SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP. Students who are eligible to test but not required will not be pre-identified by DAS.

This is a one-time pull for pre-identification purposes for students taking the SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys and M-STEP. The Pre-ID Student Report will be available to schools on the Secure Site at (www.michigan.gov/baa-secure) on January 11, 2016. It is the responsibility of the district and/or school to update the Pre-ID Student report by unassigning students who exit and adding new students directly on the Secure Site.

All initial standard materials and barcode labels printed by the contractor for SAT, PSAT, and WorkKeys will be based on the students pre-identified on the Secure Site by February 16 at 5:00 PM. All initial standard materials and barcode labels printed by the contractor for the M-STEP paper/pencil will be based on the students pre-identified on the Secure Site and identified as paper/pencil by February 26 at 5:00 PM.

Schools will need to print barcode labels from the Secure Site for students pre-identified after the deadlines above. All answer documents are required to have a barcode label for scoring.

To ensure you get the appropriate number of assessment materials, it is IMPORTANT to make sure your pre-identification is accurate.

Options and instructions for pre-identification of students can be found on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) by clicking Pre-Identification-Spring Assessments under the Quick Reference section.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

When pre-identifying new students to the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), students must be pre-identified to each of the three components (SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP Science and Social Studies) separately. Once the student is pre-identified to one of the components, you can use the Mass Update Assessments page to easily copy them over to the other two components. This only applies to students added by the school or district on the Secure Site. DAS has already done this for students who were pre-identified by DAS. Instructions specific to this task for MME can be found on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) by clicking on Mass Update Assessments-Copying Students from One MME Component to other MME Components under the Quick References section.

Pre-Identification for MI-Access

The MI-Access is an alternate assessment for special education students only and is based on a student’s IEP. Since DAS cannot determine which students will test using MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), Participation (P), or Supported Independence (SI), all students will be pre-identified to M-STEP and it will be the district and/or schools responsibility to move students from M-STEP to the appropriate MI-Access assessment in the Secure Site. This can be done for a group of students at a time using the Mass Update Assessments function found under the Student Assessments menu on the Secure Site. Instructions specific to this task for MI-Access can be found on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) by clicking on Mass Update Assessments-Copying Students to MI-Access Assessments under the Quick References section.

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All initial standard materials and barcode labels printed by the contractor for MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) paper/pencil will be based on the students pre-identified on the Secure Site and identified as paper/pencil by February 26 at 5:00 PM.

**Online Sessions**

Students taking the M-STEP and MI-Access FI online may be put into Online Sessions starting January 11, 2016. This can be done on the Secure Site through February 26, 2016. Students pre-identified after February 26 or who were not put into an online testing session by February 26 can be put into online sessions in eDIRECT. Instructions can be found on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/secsitetraining) by clicking on Online Sessions under the Quick References section.

**Unassigning Students from Assessments**

Please note that students who are unassigned from testing on the Secure Site are NOT removed from accountability calculations, only from testing. To ensure a student is removed from accountability calculations, the student must be exited in MSDS in the Spring 2016 MSDS General Collections or an SRM collection.

**Initial Material Orders for Spring 2016**

There are two important steps to initial material orders: 1) verify on the Initial Material Order screen that both the shipping address and the coordinator’s name are correct, and 2) verify or enter the number of materials needed for administering the assessment. When verifying the address and coordinator name on the Initial Material Order page, if it is incorrect, it must be corrected in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) by the authorized district EEM user (usually the Student Pupil Accounting person) by the deadlines that follow.

Instructions for Initial Material Orders can be found on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/secsitetraining) by clicking on Initial Material Order under the Quick References section.

There will be another opportunity once the initial material orders have been received to order additional materials if needed.

**SAT, PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10**

Initial material orders for SAT and PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 Standard Test Booklets will be based on the number of students pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 16, 2016. Accommodated materials will be sent based on the approved accommodations request submitted through the College Board. The projected number of materials that will be sent based on the pre-identification can be viewed on the Initial Material Orders page on the Secure Site. The SAT Standard Test Booklets can only be adjusted by pre-identifying additional students and unassigning students from the testing.

**WorkKeys**

Initial material orders for Standard Time, Regular Print WorkKeys materials will be based on the number of students pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 16, 2016. Accommodated materials, if needed, must be ordered through the Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page by 5:00 PM, February 16, 2016. The projected number of Standard Time, Regular Print materials that will be sent based on the pre-identification can be viewed on the Initial Material Orders page on the Secure Site. The number of Standard Time, Regular Print materials can only be adjusted by pre-identifying additional students and unassigning students from the testing.

**M-STEP**

Initial material orders for Standard Test Booklets for M-STEP materials will be based on the number of students pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 PM, February 26, 2016. Accommodated materials, if needed, must be ordered through the Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page by 5:00 PM on February 26, 2016.

(Continued on next page)
IMPORTANT NOTE: If you enter an order for accommodated materials for M-STEP and save it, the number of Standard Test Booklets will also be saved and will NOT continue to update based on the Pre-ID. Once an order is “Saved”, you can adjust the number of Standard Test Booklets for M-STEP directly on the initial material order page if needed through 5:00 PM on February 26, 2016. If you do not enter accommodated materials on your order and “save” it, then the Standard Test Booklets will continue to update based on the students pre-identified to test.

MI-Access Functional Independence (FI)
Initial material orders for Standard Test Booklets for MI-Access FI materials will be based on the number of students pre-identified on the Secure Site by 5:00 PM, February 26, 2016. Accommodated materials, if needed, must be ordered through the Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page by 5:00 PM on February 26, 2016.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you enter an order for accommodated materials for MI-ACCESS FI and save it, the number of Standard Test Booklets will also be saved and will NOT continue to update based on the Pre-ID. You can adjust the number of Standard Test Booklets for MI-Access directly on the initial material order page if needed through 5:00 PM on February 26, 2016. If you do not enter accommodated materials on your order and “save” it, then the Standard Test Booklets will continue to update based on the students pre-identified to test.

MI-Access Supported Independence (SI) and Participation (P)
Since the MI-Access SI and P will be administered one-on-one to students and their responses entered into the INSIGHT by the school, separate materials are not needed for each student. On the Initial Material Order page, schools will need to enter the number of administrators who will be administering the assessment by 5:00 PM on February 26, 2016.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Materials Shipment and Additional Material Orders Window
Materials for the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online and paper/pencil assessment as well as the paper/pencil Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are scheduled to arrive in districts on or before January 25, 2016. Please thoroughly review this shipment of initial materials before placing an Additional Material Order.

The Additional Material Orders (AMOs) window will open in the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) on January 27, 2016 and close March 18, 2016. Directions on ordering additional paper materials can be found in the WIDA AMS User Guide, Part 2. The secure AMS account login can be accessed on the WIDA AMS web page (https://wida-ams.us). If you have not yet accessed your AMS account, you must first have a BAA Secure Site account set up for you. Please call 1-877-560-8378 and select Option 3 for more information about setting up your Secure Site account.

For questions regarding delivery and help on placing AMOs in the WIDA AMS, please call DRC Customer Service at 1-855-787-9615 or email DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com.

Additionally, English Learner (EL) Assessment Coordinators in the EEM may receive emails from DRC Customer Service (MDE’s vendor for the WIDA assessments). Please ensure that your e-mail is set up to accept emails from WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com.

Changes in AMS for WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
Due to security and student privacy concerns in WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS), all current District users in AMS (those users who can manually create accounts in AMS) will be reverted back to the
role of “Teacher” within the system. This action will ONLY disable AMS functionality for adding users and have no additional impact on functionality for district level users. From January 4, 2016 forward, all new users (test administrators, school test coordinators, etc.) MUST have an account created first in the Secure Site. Users created in the Secure Site will be loaded to WIDA AMS on a daily basis. The accounts of users who were manually created prior to January 4, 2016 will remain active.

For directions on setting up accounts in the Secure Site, including the roles for AMS, please review the Approving, Creating, Modifying Users – Secure Site document or the Assigning Roles in Secure Site for AMS and eDIRECT located on the secure site training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining).

If you need additional help or have further questions, please call 1-877-560-8378 and select Option 3 or e-mail baa@michigan.gov.

WIDA Sample Items, Student Tutorials, and Online Test Practice Available

Schools that will be administering the online WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 should take advantage of the currently available sample items.

- **Online Sample Items** – requires the Chrome browser (https://wbte.drcedirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida)

- **User Guide ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Grades 1–12**


Sample items are designed to provide educators a brief look at how WIDA item types will appear to students. Resources designed to be student facing are the web-based student tutorials and the online test practice.

WIDA’s web-based student tutorials for students to watch (non-interactive) are available as a Grades 1-3, Grades 4-5, and Grades 6-12 Tutorial. These can be accessed by going to the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) (https://www.wida-ams.us/) page and selecting Test Demo under Test Resources in the top left-hand corner of the page. If your browser automatically logs you into WIDA AMS, you will need to log out to access this link.

Online Test Practice for each domain and grade-level cluster can be accessed via Chrome on the WIDA portal (https://wbte.drcedirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida) by clicking on the words Test Practice. First select a domain and then a grade-level cluster. A login screen will appear. A Username and Password will be provided for you above the login area.

These Test Practices are also available through the test engine, INSIGHT, by using the Test Practice link on the portal page.

Supports and Accommodations for NEW Test Coordinators Webinar

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will host a Supports and Accommodations for NEW Test Coordinators Webinar on January 25, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. If you are a new test coordinator for M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, or WIDA this year, it is recommended that you take advantage of this opportunity to receive up-to-date information on student supports and

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accommodations requirements and guidelines for the Spring 2016 state summative assessments. **NOTE:** A PowerPoint presentation of this training will be available after January 25, 2016.

To access the webinar, follow these instructions:

1. Click the link below, or type the URL into your web browser.
   
   **Join Meeting**
   
   (https://stateofmichiganmdeweb.centurylinkccc.com/CenturylinkWeb/SOMOldBAA)

2. In the screen that appears, select the radio button “Enter as a guest” and type your first and last name, and email address, in the spaces provided. Then click “Join Meeting.” If the meeting has not yet commenced, you will be placed in a wait status until the host joins the meeting.

3. Once in the meeting, a pop-up will appear where you will be prompted to have the meeting either call your phone, or call your computer. Select “Call My Phone,” type your phone number, including the area code, in the space provided, and click “Connect Me.” The meeting will call your phone, and you will be automatically placed in the meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this webinar, please call 877-560-8378, Option 8, or email baa@michigan.gov.

**Supports and Accommodations REFRESHER Webinar**

In addition to the Supports and Accommodations for NEW Test Coordinators webinar, MDE will also host a Supports and Accommodations REFRESHER Webinar on January 28, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. This webinar is a repeat of the December 11, 2015 and January 6, 2016 Supports and Accommodations Refresher webinars and will focus on information returning test coordinators need for the Spring 2016 state summative assessments.

To access the webinar, follow the instructions provided in the preceding article—**January 25, 2016 Supports and Accommodations for NEW Test Coordinators Webinar.**

If you have any questions concerning this webinar, please call 877-560-8378, Option 8, or email baa@michigan.gov.

**Device Toolkit Update**

DRC has released an update for the Device Toolkit being used for all online assessments, including WIDA and M-STEP. This resolves the issue with users serving multiple school districts.

**Would you be interested in serving on an assessment committee?**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) takes great pride that Michigan teachers are involved in every aspect of item development for our assessment programs. Participation on the committees includes thorough training in content and instruction in using the Michigan Item Bank System (web-based application for item and context development).

If you are interested in serving on a committee, complete the Assessment Committee Participation Application (http://www.cvent.com/Surveys/Questions/IDConfirm.aspx?s=06002a4e-c578-417d-807f-542787fad180). Or you can go to www.michigan.gov/baa, scroll down to the Additional Information section, and click on Assessment Committee Participation Application.

Please be sure to answer all of the questions so you can be placed on a committee that best suits your talents. The OSA reaches out to teachers in all of the

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content areas at all grade levels. We are currently recruiting teachers for the following programs:

- M-STEP—ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Alternate Assessments—ELA (Accessing Print and Expressing Ideas), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Michigan Early Literacy and Numeracy (K-2) —ELA and Mathematics

The various committees for these programs are described in the table below.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If it has been over a year since you completed a committee application and/or served on a Michigan assessment committee in the past, please consider updating your information on the committee application. OSA is continually updating the list of committee candidates for improved contact information, relevant teaching experience, and current education status. Please share this article with other Michigan teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item Writing</td>
<td>Teachers create test items (questions) aligned to Michigan’s Standards. Items are written to the specifications assigned in the Michigan Item Bank System. Applicants for this committee will be asked to complete a follow-up application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Item Review       | Each test item is reviewed by a committee of Michigan teachers prior to field testing:  
  - Bias and Sensitivity Committee (BSC) – Is there an issue of bias that may advantage or disadvantage a student’s performance on a test item?  
  - Content Advisory Committee (CAC) – Are the test items aligned to the Michigan Standards and are they grade-level appropriate? |
| Data Review       | Test items are reviewed by a committee of Michigan teachers after pilot and field testing to consider again issues of bias and content (BSC and CAC) based on the pilot or field-test item level data. Is there something about a test item that is causing it to perform in a manner other than what is expected? |
| Context Review    | MDE commissions Michigan authors to write the passages for Michigan assessments. Each of our contexts undergo committee review for bias and grade-level appropriateness before items are developed for the passage. |
| Rangefinding      | Constructed response items are reviewed and sample score point ranges are set by this committee.                                              |
Happy New Year!

To start your year off right, we thought it would be helpful to summarize the upcoming key dates for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT.

**Attending Institution & Test Center Code Notification – Week of January 11, 2016**

Look for an email, from College Board, the week of January 11, 2016. This email serves two purposes. First it is the notification of your school’s Attending Institution (AI) and Test Center Code (SAT only) allowing all schools to begin accommodations requests. In addition, the AI and Test Center Codes are used at each site on test day. Students will use these codes on their answer sheets and Test Center Supervisors will use these codes to complete administration forms and materials return in order to accurately identify the location of the administration. Second, it is a test to ensure the Test Center Supervisor is able to receive emails from College Board. If you do not receive the email by January 15, 2016, check your spam filter to ensure the email did not get filtered out before reaching you. Then, confirm your contact information in EEM to confirm the address was entered correctly. You’ll need to work with your district-authorized EEM user to make any edits. For more information regarding EEM, please see the September 2, 2015 MDE Memorandum (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Preparing_for_Spring_2016_Assessments_499712_7.pdf).

If your contact information in EEM was incorrect, please contact us at 866-870-3127 to get your AI and Test Center codes. Or, if after checking both items, the issue remains unresolved, please contact us at 866-870-3127 so that we may investigate further.

**Pre-ID Window Opens in the Secure Site – January 11, 2016**

Pre-ID is a process by which schools identify 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students who are participating in statewide assessments. This step is necessary in order for College Board to ship the necessary test materials and labels to schools for test day. The Pre-ID window will be open January 11 – February 16, 2016. Access the MDE Secure Site (https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure) and confirm your school information and pre-identified students. Please see the related articles in this Spotlight regarding Pre-Identification and Initial Material Ordering for additional information.

**College Board & State-Allowed Accommodations Webinar – January 13, 2016**

The College Board will be conducting a webinar on requesting accommodations, including State-Allowed Accommodations, in detail on January 13, 2016, at 3:30 PM. To register, click here or go to: https://collegeboardtraining.webex.com/collegeboardtraining/ and look in the Other Events section for the January webinar entitled “Understanding College Board Accommodations for Michigan.”

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Most schools participating in the April 2016 Michigan-sponsored test administrations will use their schools as the test location. However, if you need more space, request an off-site testing location. Once you have identified a potential facility, complete the Testing Plan template. A separate plan is required for each off-site location.

To request an off-site testing location, go to the “K-12 Educators” section of our website (www.collegeboard.org/michigan). Look for the Requesting an Off-Site Testing Location section for instructions and to download the Testing Plan template. Please submit your off-site testing location request no later than January 15, 2016, in order to allow sufficient time for processing prior to test administration day.

Accommodations Requests – Submit by February 16, 2016

With the aforementioned email next week, all schools have been assigned an Attending Institution (AI) code and may begin the process of requesting College Board. Remember, if a student has been approved for a College Board Accommodation previously, for example if they tested PSAT/NMSQT in Fall 2015, they do not need to be resubmitted.

Requests should be submitted for all students requiring accommodations for PSAT 8/9 (9th grade), PSAT 10 (10th grade), and SAT with Essay (11th grade). The state-sponsored administration requires ALL accommodations requests to be submitted through SSD Online (https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online); this may be different than what you did in Fall 2015.

Along with news in the Spotlight, the College Board will continue to update information about the Spring 2016 implementation on our Michigan website (www.collegeboard.org/michigan).
Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

WIDA

• January 8, 2016:
  • WIDA Test Exceptions Window – Deadline to request a waiver from the Spring 2016 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 or the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for some students with specific disabilities.
  • WIDA 'False LEP' appeals Window – Deadline for schools and districts to submit appeals in the Secure Site (www.mi.gov/baa-secure) requesting review of 'False LEP' cases for possible correction within the MSDS.

M-STEP

• January 15, 2016: Deadline to request an off-site administration of the M-STEP. To request access, go to the Spring 2016 M-STEP Off-Site Authorization Request.

SAT, PSAT10, PSAT 8/9

• January 15, 2016: Deadline to request an off-site administration of the SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9. (see article on page 9)

Don't Forget . . .

SAT, PSAT10, PSAT 8/9

• January 13, 2016, 3:30 PM: "Understanding College Board Accommodations for Michigan" webinar. (see article on page 8)

January 2016

SAT/PSAT/WorkKeys/M-STEP

• Week of January 11, 2016: The Pre-ID Student Report will be available to schools for students taking the SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and/or M-STEP on the Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/ baa-secure).

M-STEP/MI-Access Online

• January 11 – February 26, 2016: Window for putting students into online sessions for M-STEP and MI-Access FI. After February 26, students can be put into online sessions in eDIRECT. (see article on pages 2 and 3)

Supports and Accommodations

• January 25, 2016 – 9:00–10:00 AM: Webinar FOR NEW TEST COORDINATORS on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for the 2016 M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and WIDA assessments. (see articles on page 6)

• January 28, 2016 – 8:00–9:00 AM: Refresher webinar on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for the 2016 M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and WIDA assessments. (see articles on page 6)

WIDA

• Week of January 25, 2016: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs materials will be delivered on or before this date. For questions regarding delivery, please call DRC Customer Service at 1-855-787-9615 or email DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com. (see article on pages 4 and 5)
Important Dates

WIDA continued
• January 27 – March 18, 2016: WIDA Additional Material Orders window is open in the WIDA Assessment Management System.

February 2016

WIDA
• February 8, 2016 – March 25, 2016: Summative assessment testing window for WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

SAT, PSAT10, PSAT 8/9
• February 16, 2016: Deadline to submit State-Allowed Accommodations (SAA) requests to ensure that the appropriate materials will be provided on test day.

WorkKeys
• February 16, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline to enter the number of administrators administering the assessment through the Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page. (see article on pages 3 and 4)

SAT, PSAT10, PSAT 8/9, and WorkKeys
• February 16, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline to Pre-ID students on the MDE Secure Site. (see articles on pages 2 and 3)

MI-Access Fl Paper/Pencil
• February 26, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline for students to be pre-identified and identified as paper/pencil on the Secure Site for barcode labels, initial materials, and accommodated materials. (see articles on pages 2 and 3)

MI-Access P and SI
• February 26, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline to order accommodated materials through the MDE Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page. (see articles on pages 2 and 3)

February 26, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline for students to be pre-identified and identified as paper/pencil on the Secure Site for barcode labels, initial materials, and accommodated materials. (see articles on pages 2 and 3)

MI-Access P and SI
• February 26, 2016 at 5:00 PM: Deadline to enter the number of administrators administering the assessment through the Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page. (see article on pages 3 and 4)

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.