

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of October 15, 2020

- [Online Testing Waiver Window](#)
- [Benchmark Assessment Web Page Updates for “Return to Learn” Legislation](#)

Reminders

- [Using Tools for Teachers as an Instructional Resource](#)

Online Testing Waiver Window

All schools are expected to administer the M-STEP, MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), and WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessments online for Spring 2021. A small number of school buildings might never be able to test online. Examples include buildings with no internet access, juvenile justice facilities that do not allow students online, or some center-based special education programs. These schools can submit online waiver request(s) to administer the paper/pencil version of M-STEP, MI-Access FI, and WIDA ACCESS assessments for Spring 2021. This process is unchanged from Spring 2020.

The window to request a waiver through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site will be open **October 19 – November 24, 2020**.

Districts must submit the online waiver request(s) by November 24, 2020 in order to obtain the paper/ pencil materials needed. **Important Note: Requests for each school and each assessment must be submitted separately.** A school (or building) is the smallest unit that may request an online waiver.

A school may not apply to have only certain grades or content areas take the paper/pencil assessments. Schools that are administering online but have individual students who need to use a paper/ pencil form due to a disability or for another reason—as outlined in the [Supports and Accommodations Guidance Document](#) (Student Supports and Accommodations Tables, pg. 55) located on each

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assessment web page—do not have to request an online waiver. Schools will be able to order paper/pencil materials on the Material Order screens in the OEAA Secure Site to accommodate these individual students.

Process:

Requests for an online waiver must be submitted through the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) by a user with District Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator access, using the process detailed in the [Online Waiver Request](#) document on the [Secure Site Training web page](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining) (www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining) under



Miscellaneous.

Benchmark Assessment Web Page Updates for “Return to Learn” Legislation

In the past month, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) launched the new [Benchmark Assessments web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-benchmarkassessments) (www.michigan.gov/mde-benchmarkassessments). The announcement of this web page was featured in the [September 17, 2020 Spotlight](#). The Benchmark

Assessment web page has been under construction since it was announced, and now features more information related to the benchmark assessment provisions in the newly passed Return to Learn legislation.

The updates include:

- additional links to memos and Spotlight articles related to benchmark assessments in context of the Return to Learn law
- expanded vendor provided information
 - » Transparent Statements
 - » Product Information
 - »  DRC Getting Started Guide
- an Assessment Literacy section with linked resources
- the Benchmark Assessment Guidance for Learning at a Distance document
-  a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document



Reminders

Using Tools for Teachers as an Instructional Resource

- **Monday, October 19, 2020**
- **1-4 p.m. ET**

[Register Now](#)

This online session will provide insights into using the Tools for Teachers digital platform to improve student learning. This rich resource—developed and vetted by educators, and maintained by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium—can provide materials and lessons aligned to state standards. One of the essential elements of these instructional resources is an emphasis on the formative assessment process. Michigan has a strong reputation of educator support for learning about the formative assessment process through [Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators \(FAME\)](#) (www.famemichigan.org). Tools for Teachers provides an entrée into the formative assessment process as it is defined in Michigan.

Whether or not you have been a part of FAME, the effective use of the Tools for Teachers resource will require thoughtful planning. Participants will explore or be reacquainted with the formative assessment process and what steps might be needed to use these materials in promoting effective use of the formative assessment process.

Questions about Fall or Spring PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, or SAT?

- Call the Michigan Educator Hotline: 866-870-3127 (select Option 1)
- Email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

WHAT'S NEW

October 14 SAT with Essay

- If you are planning for a makeup SAT with Essay administration on October 27, do not forget to order makeup tests in the College Board test ordering site by **October 16, 2020**.

Preparing for Spring 2021

Tasks you can be doing now to prepare your school for the Spring 2021 administration of PSAT 8/9 for grades 8 and 9, PSAT 10, and SAT with Essay:

- Register for the [Implementation webinar](https://tinyurl.com/2021Implementation-MI) (<https://tinyurl.com/2021Implementation-MI>) on **November 10, 2020** from **9:00-10:30 a.m.** This webinar will focus on activities test coordinators can be doing until the end of 2020 to prepare their school and students for testing.
- SSD coordinators can register for an [Accommodations and Supports webinar](https://tinyurl.com/2021Accommodations-MI) (<https://tinyurl.com/2021Accommodations-MI>) on **December 9, 2020** from **12:00-1:30 p.m.** This webinar will assist new and

returning SSD coordinators with the process of applying for accommodations through the SSD Online system. This will be especially helpful for new SSD coordinators. We will also review administering the SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9 for grades 8 and 9 with accommodations and English Learner supports.

- All webinars are optional and will be recorded and posted on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) and the [PSAT web page](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat) approximately one week after the webinar is completed.
- Update the Educational Entity Master (EEM) with test coordinator information. Refer to the [September 24 edition of Spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) titled, "Are Your School and District Contacts Up to Date in the Educational Entity Master?"
- Watch for upcoming information about school establishment in the October 29 edition of the Spotlight.

REMINDERS

PSAT/NMSQT Reminders

- Ordering materials for the January 26, 2021 PSAT/NMSQT administration is now open in the College Board test ordering site. The deadline to order tests for this date is **December 4, 2020**.
- Schools may order and administer the test to 10th and 11th grade students who did not test on either of the October administrations.

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CB

- Test materials for the October 29 administration will arrive between October 19-21.

PSAT 8/9 Reminders

- Schools have two weeks from the chosen primary test date to get all students tested.
- Test materials will arrive approximately one week prior to the primary test date chosen in the College Board test ordering site.

Important Dates

October 2020

WIDA

Friday, October 16, 2020

- 2020 WIDA ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs hard copy reports arrive in districts

PSAT 8/9

Now – October 29, 2020

- PSAT 8/9 Fall 2020 administration window (Pick one primary administration date, and complete all makeup testing within two weeks of the primary administration date.)

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 29, 2020

- Pre-Identification of students in the OEAA Secure Site for **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)**

Now – October 30, 2020

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)** Fall 2020 testing window

SAT with Essay

October 27, 2020

- SAT with Essay Fall 2020 makeup administration (This makeup date can also be used as a third administration date.)

PSAT/NMSQT

October 29, 2020

- PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2020 administration date

November/December 2020

December 2, 2020 at 10 a.m.

- Winter/Spring 2021 Technology Coordinator Training Zoom webinar

[Join the webinar](#)

SAT and PSAT

November 10, 2020 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

- Michigan Implementation webinar – [Register](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/2021Implementation-MI>)

December 9, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

- Accommodations and Supports webinar – [Register](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/2021Accommodations-MI>)

Contacts

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues:

Assessment and Accountability Call Center

877-560-8378 (select appropriate option)

Options	Topics
1	to report cheating and unethical behavior by a district/school in regards to state assessments
2	for support of Central Office Services (COS), DRC INSIGHT Portal, and INSIGHT for the online M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)
3	for support of the OEAA Secure Site for <u>all</u> state assessments, administration and policy questions related to M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2), and accountability reporting
4	for questions about the College Entrance and Workskills assessments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility, MDE policies, and OEAA Secure Site Support 2. SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 – College Board 3. WorkKeys – ACT®
5	for questions about the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, and support for WIDAAMS, INSIGHT, and Central Office Services (COS)
8	for all other questions

Email

For assessment questions:

mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

For accountability questions:

mde-accountability@michigan.gov

For assistance with WIDA Screener, W-APT, and the WIDA Secure Portal questions:
(for questions not covered in options 3 and 5 in the table above)

WIDA Client Services

866-276-7735

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues