


Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of October 8, 2020

- **WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Item Reviews and Test Question Writing Opportunities**
- **ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Printed Score Reports**
-  **Benchmark Assessment Supports and Accommodations**
- **2020-21 Required Reporting – Student Attendance Data**
- **2019-20 Michigan 31a At-Risk – DRAFT COVID-19 FAQ Updates**

Reminders

- **Using Tools for Teachers as an Instructional Resource**


We have made a few changes to the Spotlight to make it easier for you to know which articles are new and which are reminders that include information from previous Spotlight editions. Our regular sections—College Board (CB) Corner, ACT WorkKeys, Important Dates, and Contacts—are linked at the bottom of the page. CB Corner and ACT WorkKeys now have their own What's New and Reminder sections.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Item Reviews and Test Question Writing Opportunities

WIDA is inviting educators to participate in virtual Fall 2020 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs test development events. Interested educators can complete this [brief survey](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuLr1fc5wS5SGEJ) (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuLr1fc5wS5SGEJ) to indicate their interest. The survey must be completed by **Friday, October 23, 2020**. Participants will be selected based on experience, expertise, representation of regions, and diversity. If you are selected, WIDA will contact you with event details and next steps.

Virtual Writing WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Bias and Sensitivity Review

- **Purpose:** Review the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs writing domain to ensure that test items are free of material that might favor any subgroup of students over another on the basis of gender, race or ethnicity, home language, religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status
- **Total time commitment:** Four hours over two evenings (all times listed are eastern standard time)

Key:  includes supports and accommodations information

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- **Dates:**

- » Training (All Grades):
 - Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
- » Review breakout groups:
 - **Grades 1 and 2-3**
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 4-5 and 6-8 Tier A**
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 6-8 Tier B/C and 9-12**
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

Virtual Writing WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Content Review

- **Purpose:** ACCESS for ELLs writing domain to ensure that test item content is grade-level appropriate and factually accurate
- **Total time commitment:** Four hours over two evenings (all times listed are eastern standard time)
- **Content expertise:** English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies
- **Dates:**
 - » Training (All Grades):
 - Monday, November 9, 2020, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - » Review breakout groups:
 - **Grade 1**
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 4-5**
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 9-12**
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 2-3**
Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
 - **Grades 6-8**
Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

If you have questions about these events, reach out to Sonia Upton at Sonia.upton@wisc.edu.

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Printed Score Reports

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Printed Score Reports will arrive in districts on **Friday, October 16, 2020**.

Printed Score Reports:

Districts will receive a shipment with an affixed yellow label on the boxes containing ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports. Specifically, this shipment will contain the following reports:

- Grades K-12 ACCESS for ELLs District Frequency Distribution Reports
- Grades 1-12 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs District Frequency Distribution Reports (if applicable)
- District boxes may also include boxes for schools (this is the same process for delivering test materials)

The school shipment will arrive on the same day as the district shipment. This shipment will have a yellow label affixed to the boxes and will contain WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports. Specifically, this shipment will contain the following reports:

- Grades K-12 ACCESS for ELLs School Frequency Distribution Reports
- Grades K-12 ACCESS for ELLs School Roster Reports
- Grades K-12 ACCESS for ELLs Individual Student Reports

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

- Grades 1-12 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs School Frequency Distribution Reports (if applicable)
- Grades 1-12 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs School Roster Reports (if applicable)
- Grades 1-12 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Individual Student Reports (if applicable)

- [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) – a comprehensive document provides information on understanding the scores.

Contact DRC Customer Support with any questions, at 1-855-787-9615 or WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com.

Score Report Resources

WIDA offers several online resources as communication to educators, families, and students. The following resources are available for parents and educators in the [WIDA Resource Library](#) and can be found using the filters for Topic and Type.

ACCESS for ELLs:

- [What is ACCESS for ELLs?](#) – a two-page flyer provides parents with answers to several basic questions about ACCESS for ELLs; available in multiple languages
- [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) - a two page document summarizes key information for parents from the full ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports; available in multiple languages
- [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) – a comprehensive document provides information on understanding the scores

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

- [What is ACCESS for ELLs?](#) – a two-page flyer provides parents with answers to several basic questions about Alternate ACCESS for ELLs; available in multiple languages
- [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) – a three-page document summarizes key information for parents from the full Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports; available in multiple languages.

Benchmark Assessment Supports and Accommodations

With the exception of the K-2 Early Literacy and Mathematics benchmark assessments, educators who have questions about what supports or accommodations are allowed should reach out directly to the providers of their benchmark assessments. MDE does not oversee the products offered by the benchmark assessment vendors and cannot provide guidance on what is allowed, nor how features function within those systems. As best practice and to the extent possible, educators are encouraged to try to keep the supports offered to students consistent with what students use in the classroom and what they may be expected to have available to them on the M-STEP.

2020-21 Required Reporting – Student Attendance Data

Student attendance data must be reported for 2020-21 to fulfill pupil accounting requirements around student membership, for instructional time resulting in number of hours and days (1098 hours and 180 days) necessary to deliver educational or course content leading to course completion, and for accountability purposes. 2020-21 accountability requirements have not been waived at this time.

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When a student exits a school district or at the conclusion of the school year, two 2-way interactions per week are required throughout the school year while the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is in place. Because schools are required to provide the equivalent of 180 days of instructional content, days attended and days possible for student attendance should be based on the method the school is using to demonstrate the instructional content. A school having two 2-way interactions during a week will constitute the student having been in attendance for five school days.

Example calculation for days possible using the two 2-way interactions per week:

Rosa Parks High School has 36 weeks of school scheduled for 2020-21.

$36 \times 5 = 180$ days possible

Note: For a pupil who transitions from an online environment (where weekly 2-way interactions are required) to a seated environment (where regular attendance is required), physical attendance in scheduled courses may be considered when determining if this requirement is satisfied. For pupils transitioning from a virtual environment to homebound or hospitalized services, or to home-based instruction, the participation requirements of the applicable section begin at the point of transition in the program.

Attendance data are required to be reported in the End of Year (EOY) Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), as well as at any time a student is exited from enrollment. **Note:** MSDS continues to collect attendance data by days – that is, days attended and days possible.

All school districts must continue reporting data as in a normal year in the appropriate CEPI collections. This will ensure continuation of required reporting elements even outside of the waived federal assessment and accountability requirements for 2019-20.

For more information on the MSDS, refer to the [2020-21 MSDS Collections Details Manual](#) (pp. 9-15).

For more information on 2020-21 accountability, refer to [Michigan School Accountability: Planning and Response to COVID-19](#)

For more information on pupil accounting, including membership and 2-way interactions:

- visit the [Michigan Pupil Accounting](#) web page
- review the [memo](#) covering two-way interactions under Return to Learn Laws

2019-20 Michigan 31a At-Risk – DRAFT COVID-19 FAQ Updates

The MDE has developed a new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding 31a At-risk students. The FAQ includes the following:

- There are no changes to the 2020-21 legislatively defined At-risk criteria and reporting requirements.
- At-risk eligible students should continue to be reported in all general collections during the 2020-21 school year.
- Due to the absence of 2020 State Assessment Data, districts should focus on the other nine criteria for identifying and reporting students in MSDS. For pupil accounting, districts only need to have documentation of students meeting any one of the ten criterion to report eligibility to the state of Michigan.

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- All student-level data should be reviewed to identify and report all students who are enrolled in the district, regardless of the learning mode. This would include all students enrolled in in-person, hybrid, and virtual/remote learning modes.
- District leadership teams must continue to work with their Nutrition Services leadership to ensure that appropriate economic status documentation (Free & Reduced-Price Meals Applications and Household Information Reports) is collected and reported in the MSDS Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility component. This will provide the district with the documentation they need to use the At-risk Economically Disadvantaged criterion and will help ensure state and federal grants data are collected

appropriately for future allocations. Section 31a allocation is generated from the economically disadvantaged student count from the preceding October count.

To see the complete updated FAQs, visit the [Section 31a website](#).

For further questions, reach out to:

Section 31a General Mailbox, Office of Educational Supports, MDE-Section31a@michigan.gov

Alexander Schwarz, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, schwarza@michigan.gov



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.

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

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

PSAT/NMSQT

- Ordering 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 assessment to 10th and 11th grade students who did not test on either of the October administrations.

REMINDERS

- No Pre-ID labels will be sent to be affixed to answer sheets.

October 14 SAT with Essay Reminders

- Test materials will arrive between **October 7-12, 2020**.

September 23 SAT with Essay Next Steps

- Scores will be available on a rolling basis beginning October 15. Students may receive their scores a day later than educators.

- Schools will have a chance to make grade adjustments (to ensure that the grade a student bubbled is accurate for correct billing to occur) and identify students eligible for fee waivers (if desired) in the College Board test ordering site between **November 9 and December 16**. More information about this process will be available in the November 5 edition of Spotlight.

PSAT/NMSQT Reminders

- There is no accommodated window for PSAT/NMSQT testing. Be sure to schedule testing for all students on your chosen primary test date. Students approved to test over two days must test on the primary test date and on the following day.
- 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.

Fall 2020 Test Coordinator Supplement

- College Board has published a [test coordinator supplemental guide](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/test-coordinator-supplemental-guide.pdf) (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/test-coordinator-supplemental-guide.pdf>) for SAT School Day,

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PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 8/9. The document explains how the flexible policies provided for fall testing will affect how you administer the tests at your school, including explanations of how procedures may diverge from what is in the applicable Coordinator Manual. This supplement will **not** be shipped directly to schools.

- This is a national publication and may include information that is not applicable to Michigan-provided testing, such as testing PSAT 8/9 after October 29 and the October 17 PSAT/NMSQT.

Fall 2020 SAT with Essay Test Books and Procedures

Because COVID-19 caused most Spring 2020 testing to be canceled, College Board has repurposed unused spring materials for SAT School Day administrations this fall.

- **October 14 SAT School Day administration** – test books will have “April 14, 2020” printed on the cover
- **All SAT School Day test dates** – complete field 3 on the Coordinator Report Form (CRF) using your actual administration date, **not** the date printed on the test books

Spring 2021 SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9

To begin preparing your school for Spring 2021 testing, the first step is to ensure the Entity Education Master (EEM) is up-to-date. Refer to the article in the [September 24, 2020 Spotlight](#) titled, “Are Your School and District Contacts Up to Date in the Educational Entity Master?”

ACT WorkKeys *Information on ACT® WorkKeys® provided by the ACT.*

What's New

Upcoming Manage Participation

The ACT WorkKeys assessment is one of three required components of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) for grade 11 and eligible grade 12 students. All public schools are required to administer the full Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which consists of the ACT WorkKeys, SAT, and M-STEP science and social studies assessments. If a nonpublic school chooses to administer any one of the three MME components, they will be expected to administer all three components to their students.

The first step in the ACT WorkKeys assessment is to indicate your school's participation status and to select your preferred materials receipt dates. This is called the Manage Participation process and must be completed between **November 2** and **November 27, 2020**. The process will take approximately five minutes.

All schools, public and nonpublic, must confirm in PearsonAccess^{next} that they are participating in order to receive test materials and to administer the WorkKeys assessment.

Information about completing the Manage Participation process will be emailed to the District Assessment Coordinators and the WorkKeys Test Coordinators listed in the [Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](http://www.michigan.gov/eem) (www.michigan.gov/eem) the **week of October 26, 2020**. Refer to the [September 24, 2020 Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability Newsletter](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for additional information about updating the EEM.

ACT will email the PearsonAccess^{next} login information only to the WorkKeys Test Coordinators listed in the EEM for both public and nonpublic schools. If the WorkKeys Test Coordinator does not receive this email by **November 2, 2020**, contact ACT at the web page or phone number listed below.

Contacting ACT

If you have questions, you may:

1. contact ACT via the [Contact Us web page](http://www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html)
2. call ACT at 800-553-6244 between 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - standard time: ext. 2800
 - accommodations: ext. 1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

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

Important Dates

Coming Next Week . . .

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

- **SAT with Essay** Fall 2020 administration date
- **PSAT/NMSQT** Fall 2020 administration date

Friday, October 16, 2020

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

October 2020

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](#)

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