Public Input on Waiver Request Closing Soon

The Michigan Department of Education intends to apply for a renewal of the waiver received for the 2017-2018 school year allowing more than 1% of students be assessed using the alternate assessment, as we implement plans to work toward this requirement. Refer to the Alternate assessment waiver request for the 1% cap memo (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/1_Percent_Waiver_638607_7.pdf) that outlines the plan to renew and outlines ways in which public comment can be submitted about the proposed plan. Please note: the last day to provide comment on the plan that will be included in the waiver renewal is December 17, 2018.

1% Participation Rates on the Alternate Assessment - Disproportionality Information Now Available

In the November 29, 2018 Spotlight Newsletter (http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight), an article appeared indicating that the 1% cap on participation in the alternate assessment data has been made available to Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), which in turn will provide that information to local districts. This past Friday, fourteen ISDs (representing 42 local districts or public school academies) received an email from Marcia O’Brien from the Office of Special Education with a leap file link to disproportionality in participation on the alternate assessment (MI-Access). Only ISDs who have local districts or public school academies with disproportionality issues received this notice. ISDs will have these files added to Catamaran, but the leap file was sent out so that ISDs could have immediate access to the information. ISDs are encouraged to notify affected districts or public school academies as soon as possible.

Questions should be directed to your ISD representative or to John Jaquith in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), at 517-335-1987, or email jaquithj@michigan.gov.
Pre-Identification for SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, M-STEP, and MI-ACCESS (Grades 3-8 and HS)

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) will pre-identify, in the OEAA Secure Site, students in grades 3-11 and required grade 12, using the Fall 2018 MSDS General Collection and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) files submitted through January 3, 2019 for the following state assessments. SRMs are not required but will be used if they have been submitted. The Pre-ID Student Report will be available at 8:00 AM on January 7, 2019.

- All students in grades 3-8, 11, and required grade 12 will be pre-identified for M-STEP.
- Students will be pre-identified as online testers unless they are enrolled in a school with an approved online waiver. Students in approved paper/pencil schools will be pre-identified for paper/pencil testing.
- Individual students in online schools that require a paper/pencil test may be reassigned for paper/pencil testing. Refer to the document Changing the Mode (online, Paper/Pencil) of Testing for Students under the Pre-Identification of Students section on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining).
- Since participation in the MI-ACCESS assessments is based on a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), schools will be expected to move students from the M-STEP to MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), Supported Independence (SI), or Participation (P) as appropriate. See Pre-Identification for MI-ACCESS on the following page for details.
- All students in grades 8, 9, and 10 in established PSAT schools will be pre-identified for PSAT 8, PSAT 9, or PSAT 10 test cycles.
- When the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 is not appropriate for a student, based on the student’s IEP, the student should be unassigned from the assessment no later than February 13, 2019 to prevent additional materials from being sent.
- There is not an alternate assessment for the PSAT 8/9 for grade 9 or the PSAT 10. Students for whom the test is not appropriate, based on their IEP, will be exempt from testing. When appropriate, grade 8 students will take one of the MI-ACCESS assessments for ELA and mathematics.
- The PSAT 8/9 is a single test that is administered to both grades 8 and 9; however in the OEAA Secure Site the test cycle is split into two: PSAT 8 and PSAT 9.
- All grade 11 and required grade 12 students in established SAT and ACT schools will be pre-identified for SAT and WorkKeys.
- See the Who Must/Can Take the MME? document for guidelines on MI-Access students’ eligibility to take the SAT and WorkKeys.
- Schools should unassign students who will be taking a MI-Access assessment by February 13, 2019 from the SAT and WorkKeys test cycle. This will prevent additional materials being sent to the school.
- This is a one-time pull from MSDS for pre-identification purposes for students taking the SAT, PSAT, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP. Starting January 7, it is the responsibility of

(Continued on next page)
the district and/or school to update the Pre-ID Student Report by unassigning students who will not be testing and adding new students who will be testing directly on the OEAA Secure Site.

All initial standard materials for SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, M-STEP, and MI-Access—as well as barcode labels printed by the contractors—will be based on the students who are pre-identified on the OEAA Secure Site by February 13, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

To ensure schools get the appropriate number of assessment materials, it is IMPORTANT to make sure your pre-identification is accurate by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019.

Options and instructions for pre-identification of students can be found on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) under the Pre-Identification of Students section.

**Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and PSAT 8/9 for Grade 8 – Important Information**

When pre-identifying new students to the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), students must be pre-identified to each assessment (SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP science and social studies) separately. Grade 8 students must be pre-identified to the PSAT 8 and M-STEP for social studies and science.

Once a student is pre-identified to one of the assessments, the Mass Update Assessments page can be used to easily copy them over to the other assessment(s). The OEAA will pre-identify students to all three assessments, so this only applies to students pre-identified after January 7 by the school or district. Instructions specific to this task—for either MME or grade 8, Copy Students from One MME Component to other MME Components for Pre-Identification—can be found on the Secure Site Training web page

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

December 13, 2018  Quick Links  /  CB Corner  /  ACT WorkKeys  /  Important Dates  /  Contacts
Site. Instructions to Copy Students from the M-STEP Assessment to the MI-Access Assessments for Pre-identification can be found on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securetraining) under Pre-Identification of Students – Mass Update Assessments.

Online Sessions
Students taking the M-STEP and MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) online may be put into Online Sessions starting January 7, 2019. This can be done on the OEAA Secure Site up through February 25, 2019. Students pre-identified on the OEAA Secure Site after February 25, 2019 can only be put into online sessions in eDIRECT. Instructions for Creating Online Sessions in the OEAA Secure Site can be found on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securetraining) under the Pre-Identification of Students section.

Initial Material Orders for Spring 2019
Even though standard materials are ordered based on the pre-identification of students to assessments, it is still important to access the Initial Material Order page on the OEAA Secure Site. There you can:

1. verify on the Initial Material Order screen that both the shipping address and the coordinator’s name are correct
2. verify or enter the number of materials needed for administering the assessment, including accommodated materials.
3. if needed, select an alternate shipping date for M-STEP and MI-Access paper/pencil materials

When verifying, if the address and/or coordinator name on the Initial Material Order page is incorrect, it must be corrected in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) (www.michigan.gov/eem) by the authorized district EEM user by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019.

Important Note: The address materials are shipped to should be the address of the assessment coordinator in the EEM, not the building address. Don’t know who your authorized district EEM user is? You can use the District and School Contact page on the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) to locate the name and contact information.

Instructions for Initial Material Orders can be found on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securetraining) under the Material Ordering section.

SAT, PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10
Initial material orders for SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 Standard Test Booklets will be based on the number of students pre-identified on the OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019. 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 OEAA Secure Site. The 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 OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019. Accommodated materials and Spanish test booklet (if needed) must

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be ordered through the OEAA Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019. 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 OEAA 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. Accommodated and Spanish materials orders will automatically reduce the number of Standard Time booklets.

M-STEP
Initial material orders for Standard Test Booklets for M-STEP materials will be based on the number of students pre-identified as paper/pencil on the OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2109. (Continued on next page

MI-ACCESS Functional Independence (FI)
Initial material orders of standard test materials for MI-ACCESS FI will be based on the number of students pre-identified for paper/pencil on the OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019. This also includes the Expressing Ideas (available paper/pencil only) for all students that are pre-identified for testing. FI Accommodated materials, if needed, must be ordered through the OEAA Secure Site on the Initial Material Orders page by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you enter an order for accommodated materials for M-STEP and/or MI-ACCESS FI and save it, the number of Standard Test Booklets for paper/pencil testing will also save and will NOT continue to update based on the Pre-ID. You can manually adjust the number of Standard Test Booklets for MI-Access FI directly on the Initial Material Order page, if needed, up through 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019.

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 Online Answer Document 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 assessment administrators who will be administering the SI and P assessments by 5:00 PM on February 13, 2019. Don’t forget to include both the primary and shadow assessment administrators in the total count.

Pre-Identification for Spring Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark (K-2)
Pre-identification for the spring Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment for grades K-2 will open on February 4, 2019. This is a change from the January 7, 2019 date that was previously been communicated.

Students who took the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment in the fall and/or winter will automatically be pre-identified to the Spring 2019 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA).

(Continued on next page)
If students tested in Fall 2018 and/or Winter 2019 and will not be testing in Spring 2019, there is no action needed by the school, even if students are automatically pre-identified by the OEAA. Schools that did not test in the Fall or Winter can still test in the Spring, but would be responsible for pre-identifying their students on the OEAA Secure Site.

Schools that will be administering the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (K-2) will need to pre-identify additional students for testing directly on the OEAA Secure Site using any of the following methods:

- MSDS Copy Function
- Pre-ID File Upload
- Student Search – one student a time

Schools may also put students into online test sessions on the OEAA Secure Site through February 25, 2019. After February 25, students must be pre-identified on the OEAA Secure Site and then can only be put into online test sessions in eDIRECT. Schools will have access to manage student data and test sessions in eDIRECT starting March 7, 2019.

Directions for all methods of pre-identification and for creating/managing Online Sessions on the OEAA Secure Site can be found on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/secsitesitetraining).

Important Reminders

**M-STEP Online Passage-Based Field Test**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) invites you to participate in an online Passage-based Writing Field Test for students in grades 3–8. The field test takes place January 7 – February 1, 2019.

To participate: Pre-ID students in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). For more information, see the October 25, 2018 Spotlight (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight).

Click on the icon below to access the New Assessment Coordinator Training Guide or go to any assessment web page and look for the icon.
Questions about Spring PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, or SAT?

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

Reminders:

- The deadline to submit an off-site testing plan is December 14, 2018. Information can be found on the College Board website (www.collegeboard.org). For plans that are submitted by the deadline, official notification of approval will be made starting the week of January 28, 2019.

- Establishment activities continue. Please review the Test Center Participation page in the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeea-secure) as we continue to assign AI codes and participation daily. Schools without a prior AI code will take longer to be assigned one. Although all participation status updates are expected to be completed by December 14, 2018, there may be a few exceptional cases where a status is not updated until early January. Contact the Michigan Educator Hotline if your participation is incorrect after December 14.

Accommodations and Supports Webinar Common Questions

The Accommodations and Supports webinar was held on December 5, 2018. We are working on posting a recording of this presentation on the College Board Michigan web page (www.collegeboard.org/michigan), it should be available in early January. Common questions from the webinar are reviewed here:

Are there exemptions for the ELA (English Language Arts) portion of the SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for students in the U.S for a year or less?

Students who are identified as English Learners in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) and have been enrolled in U.S. schools for 12 months or less at the time of taking a state assessment may be eligible to receive a one-time exception from having to take the ELA portion of state assessments. For a student to be eligible for an exception from the ELA portion of a state assessment, the student needs to have at least one of the following for the current year:

- WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) or WIDA Screener with their scores provided in the Secure Site
- a valid WIDA ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Alternate ACCESS score

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If eligible, apply for a state-allowed accommodation for EL-Math Only starting the week of January 7, 2019 in SSD Online. A math-only version of the assessment will not be shipped. Students will use a lime test book but will only be administered the math section.

I see there is a testing calendar in SSD Online. Do I have to update this calendar with the test dates our school is going to use?

It depends. Although Michigan is providing the SAT on a school day to your students, some students may also choose to register for a national administration of the SAT at their own expense. For national testing, most students will test in a weekend test center. These test centers are normally housed in high schools or colleges that applied to the College Board and were approved for weekend testing. Many accommodations—including 50% extended time, extra breaks, use of a calculator, and others—can be provided in a weekend test center. However, students who have certain accommodations, such as 100% extended time, MP3 audio, assistive technology—compatible (ATC), braille, or large font greater than 20 points—have the option to test in their school due to their special testing needs. This is referred to as “school-based testing.” This means your school, even if you have not signed up to be a national test center, may have students looking to test there. The primary SSD coordinator of a school serves as the contact for the College Board and students who require school-based testing.

To support this process, we ask that each primary SSD coordinator fill out their SSD School Testing Calendar online, which is accessible on the SSD Online Dashboard. It allows you to notify us if there are administrations for which you will not be able to provide school-based testing for students. The testing calendar in SSD Online is for SAT only. For schools that are only testing PSAT, this can be updated. Note: the calendar is not related to state testing in any way.

More information about the SSD coordinator’s role in national weekend testing is available in the SSD coordinator handbook, located on the MME (www.michigan.gov/mme) and PSAT (www.michigan.gov/psat) web pages.

What if a student needs to use an accommodation for something like a broken arm? Is that an accommodation that needs to go through SSD Online?

No. Submit the Support for Students with Temporary Physical/Medical Conditions form, found in the Appendix of the SSD Coordinator Handbook. Because these conditions may occur after the February 19, 2019 accommodations deadline, submit the form as soon as possible after the condition occurs. Note that the student may have to take the test on a makeup date.

My student doesn’t have an IEP or 504 plan but uses a health plan for testing their blood sugar. Is a health plan acceptable to submit a request for accommodations?

College Board allows for submissions that are within a formal plan. Criteria for a formal plan includes the plan using tests or evaluations that:

1. are appropriate for the student’s diagnosis and needs

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2. were administered by those who meet state and/or professional guidelines for administering the evaluations and for diagnosing the disability in question, and

3. demonstrate the student’s disability and need for accommodations.

The plan should also be created by a group of people who know the student, the meaning of the evaluation results, and the available accommodations. This group may include an SSD coordinator.

**My student usually takes MI-Access; do they have to take the PSAT 8/9 for 8th grade?**

Typically, students who take the MI-Access will continue to take that assessment. Information on **Who Takes the Alternate Assessment** can be found on the [Assessment Coordinator Training Guide web page](#) under **Module 5: Getting Ready for Testing**. Go to any assessment web page and look for the Assessment Coordinator Training Guide icon.
Managing Participation for ACT WorkKeys is Past Due

All schools, public and participating nonpublic, must confirm in PearsonAccess\textsuperscript{next} that they are participating in order to receive test materials and to administer the WorkKeys assessment. This process is called Manage Participation and will only take approximately five minutes. You will indicate your school’s test dates and select your preferred materials receipt dates. If your school is not testing, you must indicate the reason why you are not testing.

The window for Managing Participation is past due. If schools have not completed Manage Participation using the PearsonAccess\textsuperscript{next} system yet, please refer to the November 29, 2018 Spotlight Newsletter (http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for further information on completing the process. Please Note: Manage Participation must be completed at the school level, not the district level.

District and Building Assessment Coordinators should ensure that all schools within your district have completed the Manage Participation process, even if schools are not testing. All public schools with 11th grade and eligible 12th grade students are expected to administer the ACT WorkKeys.

Schools that have completed the Participating section in PearsonAccess\textsuperscript{next} are sent to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site daily. District and Building Assessment Coordinators can verify each school’s status by reviewing the Test Center Participation page on the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). The Test Center Participation page is located in the Secure Site under the Assessment Registration drop-down menu.

What’s New with ACT WorkKeys in 2019

Students who need prerecorded audio will use an audio USB in MP3 format instead of a DVD, which allows students to use a computer instead of a video player. DVDs are no longer available as part of the prerecorded audio kits. USB usage guidelines will be included in the audio kits.

Approval of off-site testing is required by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA). The request form is located on the MME web page (www.michigan.gov/mme) and must be submitted no later than January 11, 2019.

The ACT hosted Michigan WorkKeys state testing website at http://www.act.org/stateanddistrict/michigan has a new look! The home page contains a short Welcome to Your Testing Program video that provides navigation tips.

Click on the WorkKeys on Paper link to display the Important Dates, Quick Links, and the various ways to contact ACT and OEAA, plus links to the seven phases of the WorkKeys administration and their applicable resources.

- Orientation phase – helps you become familiar with the testing program

(Continued on next page)
• **Configuration phase** – provides access to systems like PearsonAccessnextTM

• **Verification phase** – helps you ensure nothing was missed

• **Preparation phase** – prepares you for testing and includes links to Facility Requirements, Training Testing Staff, Sample Questions, and Receipt/Check in of materials

• **Administration phase** – assists you in conducting a successful test administration and includes links to Test Administration Forms, Administration Manuals, Calculator Policy, etc

• **Transportation phase** – helps you return your test materials with links to specific portions of the applicable manuals

• **Interpretation phase** – helps you understand and interpret the score reports

Click the title of each phase to quickly access it or simply scroll down the page to view each one.

For all upcoming events and deadlines, be sure to reference the following documents:


• [MME and PSAT List of Important Dates](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) found on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) under **General Information**.

**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)

2. call ACT at 800-553-6244, 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM ET
   • standard time: ext. 2800
   • accommodations: ext. 1788

3. email accommodations questions to [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org)
Important Dates

December 2018

Early Literacy and Mathematics and M-STEP

Now – January 31, 2019
• Winter 2019 Pre-ID window for the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments and M-STEP Passage-Based Writing Field Test

WIDA

Now – December 27, 2018:
• 2019 Pre-ID window for WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Now – January 25, 2019:
• Window for WIDA Test Exceptions and False EL Applications

M-STEP, MI-Access, and ACT WorkKeys

Now – January 11, 2019:
• Building-wide off-site test administrations request for M-STEP, MI-Access, and WorkKeys

January 2019

Early Literacy and Mathematics and M-STEP

January 7 – February 1, 2109:
• Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments and M-STEP Passage-based Writing Field Test – Test Administration Windows

M-STEP, SAT, PSAT, ACT WorkKeys, and MI-Access

January 7 – February 13, 2019:
• Pre-ID for barcode labels and Materials
Order window for M-STEP, SAT, PSAT, ACT WorkKeys, and MI-Access

Early Literacy and Mathematics

February 4 – February 25, 2109:
• Pre-ID and Online Test Sessions in the OEAA Secure Site for Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments

M-STEP and MI-Access

January 7 – February 25, 2019:
• Pre-ID and Online Test Sessions in the OEAA Secure Site for M-STEP and MI-Access

WIDA

Thursday, January 10, 2109, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET:
• WIDA Technology Coordinator – During Testing: Technology Troubleshooting Webinar

SAT and PSAT

January 7 – February 19, 2019:
• Window to apply for state-allowed accommodations for SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9

January 25, 2019 – February 19, 2019:
• Window to identify English learners for 50% extended time for SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9

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

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues:

### Assessment and Accountability Call Center

**877-560-8378** (select appropriate option)

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<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>to report cheating and unethical behavior by a district/school in regards to state assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>for support of Central Office Services (COS), Test Management System (TSM), eDIRECT, and INSIGHT for the online M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>for support of the OEAA Secure Site for all state assessments, administration and policy questions related to M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2), and accountability reporting</td>
</tr>
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| 4       | for questions about the College Entrance and Workskills assessments  
   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 WIDA AMS, INSIGHT, Central Office Services (COS), and Test Management System (TSM) |
| 8       | for all other questions |

### Email

For assessment questions:  
[mde-oeaa@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-oeaa@michigan.gov)

For accountability questions:  
[MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto: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