

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

April 30, 2015

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Important Dates and Reminders

Key:  information Tech Coordinators also need to know

 supports and accommodations information

Over 2,000,000 test sessions completed!

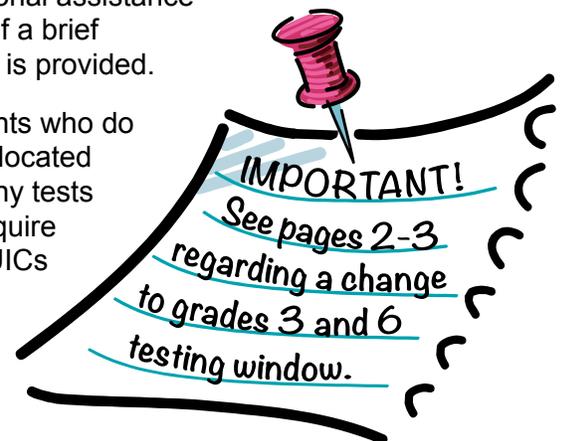
Grades 5 and 8 Student Response Deadline

The test window for Grades 5 and 8 ends this Friday, May 1, 2015. ***It is important that all response servers have uploaded any unsent student test responses to DRC before the end of the day.*** For details on how to perform this task, see pages 119–121 of Technology User Guide available on eDirect at <https://mi.drccedirect.com/default.aspx> under *Documents*.

Concerns about Unlocks/Resume Testing and Incident Reports

We have had many requests to unlock test sessions for students who have ended tests prematurely. Please telephone the Help Desk at 1-877-560-8378 (option 2) ***immediately*** if a test needs to be unlocked. Not following these instructions will likely result in a delay in unlocking test sessions. It is important to have students resume testing as quickly as possible. An Incident Report must still be filed as soon as possible, but it can be marked as ***resolved*** (under *Report Purpose* select *Document an incident that has been resolved*). Be sure to mark incidents as resolved only if no additional assistance is needed. It is very helpful if a brief description of the resolution is provided.

In addition, individual students who do not complete a test in the allocated time may resume testing. Any tests resumed on another day require an incident report with the UICs of the impacted students. These incident reports should also be reported as ***resolved***.



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Spring 2015 MI-Access FI Expressing Ideas Material Returns

As you are aware, the MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) Expressing Ideas (EI) assessment is now administered at every grade level and is exclusively a paper/pencil test requiring that it be returned for a manual scoring process.

As a result of this change to EI being administered at every grade level, we will be conducting a standard setting in June. Standard setting is the methodology used to define levels of achievement or proficiency and cut scores corresponding to those levels.

We realize how diligently you and your staff work to administer this assessment, and it is our goal to provide you with results in the timeliest manner possible. The following steps can help to ensure we have enough student responses to appropriately complete the standard setting process. These steps should be considered based on your current testing schedule. (We are not asking anyone to make a change to their testing schedule.)

- If convenient to your situation, consider administering the EI assessment while you are waiting your turn for computers (lab, Chromebooks, etc.). Note that the EI assessment is not dependent on other content areas and can be given before other content areas, including the Accessing Print section of the ELA test.
- It is not necessary to hold on to all completed MI-Access FI Expressing Ideas answer documents until the end of the testing window while you wait for students to complete paper/pencil or online tests in other content areas.
- You may use one of the return air bills in your MI-Access return kit to return all completed Expressing Ideas answer documents before returning the answer documents for other content areas and the remainder of your secure materials.

While the above steps may not fit everyone's testing schedule, we are hoping these tips may be helpful to some schools. The earlier return of the EI answer documents will be helpful to the standard setting process, enabling us to get data back to you in a more timely fashion.

If you have questions regarding the early return of EI answer documents, please send an email to baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378.

MDE Provides Additional Flexibility to Schools for M-STEP Test Administration in Grades 3 and 6

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will open the M-STEP test administration window for grades 3 and 6 *one week early* to provide schools and districts with additional flexibility in coordinating their test administration schedules with end of year activities. There is no change to the end date for the test window, so schools may maintain their previously established testing schedules if they choose. Schools also still have through Friday, June 5, 2015 to complete all M-STEP testing for students in grades 3 and 6. The additional week provided with the early opening is an **option** available to schools and districts in response to requests received from the field. What does this flexibility mean for online and paper/pencil testing schedules?

Online testing - Schools have the flexibility to administer the online tests in grades 3 and 6 on any instructional day **beginning May 11** – June 5, 2015. There is no change to the end of the test window, so schools may maintain their previously established test schedules if they choose, and will still have until June 5 to complete the grades 3 and 6 online test administration, if needed. **Note:** *This does overlap with grade 4 and 7 testing window by one week, but results of the M-STEP testing to date have indicated that the technology infrastructure within schools and districts interacting with the test delivery engine will*

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accommodate this overlap in grade level test windows for schools and districts that choose to exercise this option.

If you have questions, please contact us at baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378.

Paper/Pencil testing - To provide the additional flexibility in the paper/pencil testing schedule, with the least amount of change to the published schedule that your schools and districts have used for planning purposes, please note the following:

- 1. ELA** - There is no change to the ELA Day 1 – Day 2 test administration dates, Tuesday–Wednesday, May 19–20, 2015, respectively.
 - 2. Mathematics** - Schools have the option to administer the paper/pencil mathematics Day 1 – Day 2 test sessions on Wednesday–Thursday, May 27–28, 2015, as originally scheduled; **OR** schools/districts may choose to administer the paper/pencil mathematics Day 1 – Day 2 test sessions on Wednesday–Thursday, May 13–14, 2015, respectively, which will provide additional makeup testing days for both ELA and mathematics.
 - 3. Calendar Option** - Please see the paper/pencil test calendar options with designated test administration and makeup dates for *Option 1* – original schedule, and *Option 2* – using the optional early test administration dates for mathematics. **Schools must choose one calendar option to follow, and adhere to the dates published in the option they choose.**
 - 4. End of Test Window** - There is no change to the end of the test window – schools will still have until June 5th to complete their makeup testing if needed.
- Materials** – Materials for grades 3 and 6 M-STEP administration are expected to arrive in schools and districts tomorrow, May 1st, or on Monday, May 4th. The additional material order window in the Secure Site will open at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 5th. Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.

Paper/Pencil Test Dates

Choose ONE schedule option to follow.

Grades 3 and 6 – Option 1

Original Schedule

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 ELA Day 1	20 ELA Day 2	21 Makeup - ELA	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Makeup ELA	27 MATH Day 1	28 MATH Day 2	29 Makeup any content area	30
June 2015						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Grades 3 and 6 – Option 2

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 MATH Day 1	14 MATH Day 2	15 Makeup Math	16
17	18 Makeup Math	19 ELA Day 1	20 ELA Day 2	21 Makeup any content area	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Makeup - any content area	27	28	29	30
June 2015						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Dictionary/Thesaurus Allowed ONLY In ELA Performance Task Part 2

The use of a dictionary and thesaurus is permitted for the **ELA Performance Task Part 2 ONLY**. The dictionary/thesaurus tool is embedded in the online assessment. Students taking the paper/pencil test may use the dictionary and thesaurus used in their regular instructional program. **Please Note:** *Dictionaries and thesauri cannot be shared.*

Registration Now Open for the 2015-16 Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

District Superintendents, Elementary Principals, and those currently listed as the district's Kindergarten Entry Assessment Coordinator in EEM received an e-mail today letting them know that registration for the 2015–16 KEA is now open. The District Superintendent or their designee can submit their district's registration information that includes the names, contact information, and Personal Identification Codes (PICs) of Kindergarten teachers in their district who will be participating.

Informational webinars to help districts make a participation decision will be available on May 11th and May 19th (duplicate session) from 9:00–10:00 AM. Interested districts can sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JNBB68P>. A recording of the information presented in the webinars will also be available.

For more information about Michigan's KEA, districts can go to www.michigan.gov/kea. Educators can also contact the Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) with KEA related questions by calling 1-877-560-8378, Option 6, or emailing baa@michigan.gov with "KEA" in the subject line with additional questions.

Spring 2016 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Assessment

The Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) anticipates that English Learners (ELs) taking the Spring 2016 ACCESS for ELLs assessment will do so online. The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will include some important changes to the structure and administration of the summative assessment such as:

- additional grade level clusters: K, 1, 2–3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12; and
- student responses for the Speaking domain will be computer-recorded (microphones necessary, please see *WIDA's Recommendations for Purchasing Headsets* document at https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS_2.0/documents/Headset-specifications.pdf).

Other exciting changes mean that districts will no longer need to group students by tier to administer the assessment or be responsible for scoring the Speaking domain. Additional changes are noted on WIDA's website at <https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS20.aspx#about>. Please review the About, What's New, and Scores and Reports tabs for more specific information about the changes to the assessment.

There is also a Technology Requirements page, <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-tech.aspx>, outlining the network, platform, and device requirements necessary.

At this point in time, the most important information for districts related to this transition are:

- The WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards on which the assessments are based will remain the same.

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Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

- OSA intends that the New ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing window will not overlap with the M-STEP or MI-Access testing windows.
- OSA plans to ensure that the paper-based W-APT (screener) will remain available to districts throughout the 2015–16 school year with a transition to utilizing the online screener in 2016–17.
- The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will remain a paper/pencil assessment.
- The Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs will remain a kit-based assessment as it is in its current form.
- The new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, as with the M-STEP, will offer a paper/pencil form of the assessment. In the fall of 2015, districts will need to request an online waiver to administer paper/pencil.
- Michigan has the benefit of using the same testing contractor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), to administer the WIDA assessments as we do the M-STEP and MI-Access assessments. This should mean consistency in assessment processes, as well as look and feel, across the platforms students and educators will be using to take and administer the assessments.

To best prepare for next year's transition, please also review WIDA's Test Preparation Resources page at <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx>. A number of recorded webinars are available as well as dates for fall webinars for Test Administrators and Technology Coordinators.

For more information about the transition to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment, please call 1-877-560-8378 or e-mail baa@michigan.gov with 'ACCESS for ELLs 2.0' in the subject line.

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.

Important Dates and Reminders

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.



Approaching Deadlines!

- **Friday, May 1, 2015:** The test window for Grades 5 and 8 ends this Friday, May 1, 2015. *It is important that all response servers have uploaded any unsent student test responses to DRC before the end of the day.*

must be ordered through the Secure Site.

Reminder: Expressing Ideas is now assessed in all grades.

- **April 13 – May 29, 2015:** MI-Access testing window for all grades

April 2015

M-STEP

- **April 13 – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grade 11
- **NOW – May 11, 2015—Grades 4 and 7:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*
- **April 27 – May 15, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 4 and 7

MI-Access

- **NOW – May 22, 2015:** Paper/pencil materials not ordered previously can now be ordered on the Additional Materials Order screen on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.**

Note: For ALL MI-Access FI students being assessed in ELA: Expressing Ideas, this test is available **only** in a paper/pencil format. Materials

M-STEP and MI-Access

- **NOW:** eDIRECT is available for District and Building Coordinators to manage test sessions, set individual student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets. Supports and accommodations must be selected in eDIRECT before printing test tickets for the applicable students. **Printed test tickets are SECURE materials.**

May 2015

M-STEP

- **May 5 – June 1, 2015—Grades 3 and 6:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*
- **NEW DATE! May 11 – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 3 and 6 (See related article on pages 2-3)

► To access previous Spotlight editions, go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html.