

# Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

## June 11, 2015

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### Spotlight in July

The Michigan Department of Education will be publishing one edition of the Spotlight during the month of July, on Thursday, July 16, 2015. We will continue publishing weekly Spotlights through the month of June and will resume sending Spotlights weekly again in August. Enjoy your summer!



### Testing Schedules for Next Year!

We are working to get information out as soon as possible regarding next year's testing windows. We would like to provide as much planning time as possible for districts and schools to prepare next year's calendar. We are working with educators around the state over the next several weeks through our surveys and focus groups to gather feedback on how test administration within this year's test window structure went. We hope to use that feedback to create an even better experience for schools next year, and will have detailed test window guidance published in the Spotlight in August.

Today, however, we want to provide some key information that can begin all of our planning for a great assessment in 2016.

- Our online testing windows will not open prior to April 11, 2016, and will end by May 27, 2016. (Guidance around when grade levels or content areas will assess within that larger window will be provided later this summer).
- Our statewide SAT date is April 12, 2016.
- Our statewide WorkKeys date is April 13, 2016.

With the added benefit of the April administration date of the SAT, the College Board will be able to release items and item level information in the reports educators, students, and parents will be

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**Key:**  Reminders



supports and accommodations information

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able to see. This will be the first time we will be able to provide this valuable benefit from the college entrance exam portion of the Michigan Merit Exam.

With the recent addition of the PSAT for 9th and 10th graders, we are still working out details around administration dates for those exams and will provide those as soon as possible.

Thanks for your patience as we work through all the great feedback we're receiving around testing windows and schedules. We will get detailed information out later this summer.

Thanks again for all the very hard work that led to a very successful administration of the M-STEP this year. We look forward to another great year!

## Participation At-Risk Notice

The Michigan Department of Education has released a list of schools that received a red Scorecard result for 2013–14 due to low assessment participation rates. The schools on this list are at-risk for being subjected to supports and interventions for not meeting the required 95% participation rate on state assessments for two consecutive years. These supports and interventions scale upward over a four-year period. For more information and to review the list, please visit: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/List\\_of\\_Schools\\_At-Risk\\_for\\_Participation\\_Noncompliance\\_491463\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/List_of_Schools_At-Risk_for_Participation_Noncompliance_491463_7.pdf).

## M-STEP/MI-Access Verification of Enrollment

Participation rates are a direct reflection of your spring enrollment data in the MSDS and student testing. It is important that you ensure accurate and up-to-date enrollment records exist NOW, in the M-STEP/MI-Access Verification of **Enrollment** window, currently available in the Secure Site through 5:00 PM on June 15, 2015. This is the last opportunity to review enrollment and demographic information and submit changes in MSDS via a student record maintenance (SRM) file for assessment and accountability purposes.

## M-STEP/MI-Access Verification of Not Tested

It is also important that you submit issues for students not tested for possible exemption when the M-STEP/MI-Access Verification of **Not Tested** window opens. It is currently anticipated that the Verification of Not Tested window will be available from 5:00 PM June 17 – July 8, 2015.

## Calling All Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, \*PE, and \*ELA Teachers!

Michigan arts educators are invited to participate in a field test of **performance tasks and events** — designed for music, visual arts, theatre and dance teachers.

- These measures are commissioned by the MDE, intended for **voluntary use**.
  - They are designed to be **nested in instructional plans as curriculum-embedded performance assessments**.
  - Field-testing will occur October 2015 – April 2016.
  - Participating in the field test can provide **superior arts assessment professional learning** opportunity for interested/willing educators.
  - **Registration is open NOW**. Information on the field test and how to register is located on the MI-Arts wikispace at <http://mi-arts.wikispaces.com/home>.
- \* **PE and ELA** — Dance Performance Tasks and Events may fit into some PE curriculum. Theatre Performance Tasks and Events do fit nicely into elementary literacy blocks as well as middle school ELA courses.



## Reminders



### Registration Now Open!

The Michigan Department of Education, Division of Accountability Services is pleased to offer registration for the 2015 DAS Fall Conferences for Assessment and Accountability. Come and join us for a day of presentations from DAS staff covering essential topics such as 2015 Accountability updates; Online Reporting; 2016 Assessments; Preparing for the SAT; and much more.

The conferences will be held on 4 different dates at 4 locations throughout the state. Please register for one of the following:

- **August 20, 2015** — Lansing Convention Center, Lansing, MI
- **August 25, 2015** — Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI
- **August 27, 2015** — Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
- **September 1, 2015** — Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI

After registering for one of the conferences, you will have the opportunity to indicate which breakout sessions you may want to attend by completing a short survey. This doesn't "lock" you into attending a specific breakout session, but gives us an idea of participant interest in a session topic, so that we may schedule the sessions appropriately.

For a complete list of sessions offered and to register for the conferences, please go to <http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability>. For more information, contact MIEM at 1-517-327-9261.

### KEA Summer Professional Learning

Districts interested in administering the 2015 Fall KEA should register by the dates below for the following opportunities:

#### Optional Professional Learning Opportunities

Kindergarten teachers from districts who have registered to administer the KEA this fall are eligible for a stipend of \$250/day for the learning events.

- **June 30, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in July trainings
  - ▶ July 20/21: Taylor
  - ▶ July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie
- **July 31, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in August trainings
  - ▶ August 10/11: Lansing
  - ▶ August 12/13: Traverse City (Overnight accommodations are limited. Please register quickly.)

The last date to register your district for KEA participation is **August 15, 2015**. The district registration link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2DQS37>

Districts should note that although committed districts will be required to administer the KEA in the fall between September 8 – October 31, 2015, they also have the option to administer the KEA an additional two times throughout the year in order to best show growth across the KEA Widely Held Expectations.

## SAT Corner

Information provided by the College Board

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In this installment of the Spotlight's SAT Corner, we'd like to provide more detailed information about the College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). The College Board is committed to making sure that students with disabilities can take the exams with the accommodations they need, and will consider all requests to ensure that we measure students' academic abilities, regardless of their disabilities. Examples of common accommodations include, but are not limited to: extended time, breaks, medical management, change of setting, scribe, large block answer sheet, Braille, large print tests, audio/readers, and written copy of oral instructions. Any accommodations used on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, SAT, and AP Exams must be approved by SSD, even when the student receives these accommodations in school. Once a student is approved for an accommodation, a request does not need to be made again for another College Board test, unless there is a change to the student's accommodation needs.

All students requesting accommodations should have documentation that meets the following broad criteria, and in some cases, the documentation must be sent to the College Board for review:

- The diagnosis is clearly stated.
- Information is current.
- Educational, developmental, and medical history is presented.
- The diagnosis is supported.
- The functional limitation is described.

- Recommended accommodations are justified.
- Evaluators' professional credentials are established.

Specific [guidelines](#) may vary depending on the particular student disability. Please note that the College Board documentation guidelines list the documents that we see as most helpful in determining whether a student requires accommodations for a College Board test. However, if a student does not have the specific documentation that is requested in the guidelines, the school should still send the documentation that they may have to the College Board for review and approval of the accommodation, if supported by the submitted document. The College Board will notify schools of approved accommodations; however, school staff can also use the SSD online system to track the status of any request.

For students who will be participating in the October 2015 PSAT/NMSQT administration (**which is independent from the tests sponsored by MDE**), all accommodation requests must be submitted **by August 25, 2015**. School Counselors and/or SSD Coordinators should submit the accommodation requests at [collegeboard.org/ssd](http://collegeboard.org/ssd). Accommodation requests can take up to 7 weeks from the receipt of all documentation. For PSAT 8/9, there is no need to submit an accommodation request; therefore schools may provide accommodations as appropriate without impacting student scores. To request an SSD Online account, schools should complete the [SSD Coordinator Form](#) and fax it to College Board SSD at 866-360-0114. Within 2 days, you will receive an access code to use

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with your [College Board professional account](#). For more information about accessing your account for the first time, please see [How to Sign Up for SSD Online](#).

Over the summer, the College Board and MDE will work closely to develop the appropriate materials and training to support the MDE-sponsored assessments for spring 2016, including more specific guidelines around state-allowed accommodations. There will be plenty of time to support accommodation requests for the spring 2016 PSAT 10 and SAT; and while we are finalizing the details and schedules, applications will not be due sooner than mid-December. Please continue to check Spotlight and the College Board Michigan [website](#) for more information in the fall.

## Key SAT Changes

In previous installments of the SAT Corner, we outlined [eight key changes](#) to the redesigned SAT— and highlighted *Relevant Words in Context*, *Essay Analyzing a Source*, *Math that Matters Most*, and *Command of Evidence*. Today we'd like to focus on another one of the key changes: *Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts*.

### Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts

Throughout the redesigned SAT, students will engage with questions grounded in the real world, questions directly related to the work performed in college and career.

In the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section, reading questions will include literature and literary nonfiction, but also feature charts, graphs, and passages like the ones students are likely to encounter in science, social science, and other majors and careers. Students will be asked to do more than correct errors; they'll edit and revise to improve texts from the humanities, history, social science, and career contexts.

The Math section will feature multi-step applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life contexts. Students will be presented with a scenario and then asked several questions about it. This allows students to dig into a situation and think about it, then model it mathematically.

Read more about problems grounded in real-world contexts, and [view a sample question](#).

### Full links from SAT Corner:

**Disability documentation guidelines:** <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/documentation-guidelines/disability-documentation>

**SSD Ccoordinator Form:** <https://www.collegeboard.org/pdf/ssd/ssd-coordinator.pdf>

**College Board professional account:** <https://account.collegeboard.org/professional/viewCreateAccountAction>

**How to Sign Up for SSD Online:** <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online/get-access>

**College Board Michigan website:** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan?excmpid=MTG308-AL-1-mat>

**Eight key changes:** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/key-changes>

**Real-world contexts sample question:** [https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/problems\\_grounded\\_in\\_real\\_world\\_contexts.pdf](https://www.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/problems_grounded_in_real_world_contexts.pdf)

## Important Dates

### Approaching Deadlines!

#### M-STEP

- **June 12, 2015:** Deadline to submit the following online survey:
  - ▶ M-STEP ONLINE administration survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstep-online-administration>
  - ▶ M-STEP ONLINE student survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstepstudentsurvey>

#### M-STEP / MI-Access

- **June 15, 2015:** Deadline for the *Accountable Students* window for schools to enter Class/Group Codes for Final Reports.

### June 2015

#### MME

- **Week of June 22, 2015:** ACT High School and District Reports expected to arrive in schools

#### M-STEP / MI-Access

- **NOW - June 16, 2015:** *Verification of Answer Documents* available for **view only**, until more data is available, so schools can start to identify possible issues with answer documents (both online and paper/pencil).
- **June 17 - June 24, 2015:** *Verification of Answer Documents* available for submitting issues for answer documents. You can find instructions on what to look for, explanations of the different screens, and how to resolve issues by clicking on the *Accountable Students & Test Verification–Spring 2015* link under the **Quick Reference** section at [www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining).

#### MI-Access

- **June 30, 2015:** Deadline for submitting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception applications. Applications are completely electronic and are available through the Secure Site. Districts that already have an approved 1% exception application from the 2012–2013 or 2013–2014 school years need not re-apply.

#### WIDA

- **Now – June 23, 2015:** *Verification of Not Tested* for Spring 2015 WIDA. Schools can submit a reason why a student did not take an assessment for review by the Division of Accountability services staff, for a possible exemption for accountability purposes and other federal reporting.
- **Now – August 15, 2015:** The Pre-K Cycle for the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is now open in the MDE Secure Site. This cycle is reserved for students who are enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2015–2016 school year. Pre-K students only need the Speaking and Listening domains administered.

Scores for all students taking the W-APT must be entered into the MDE Secure Site regardless of how well they score. *Please see the article on page 5 of the [May 28, 2015 Spotlight on the Student Assessment web page](#) at [www.michigan.gov/baa](http://www.michigan.gov/baa) for more information.*

- ▶ To access [previous Spotlight editions](#), go to ([http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_31168-280911--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html))

## Recently Asked Questions

### Will the PSAT be required in 2015–16, or is it optional?

The intent of the law is that all students take the summative assessment for 9th and 10th grade (the PSAT). Given that this is a brand new assessment and new grade levels being assessed, we will not be using the PSAT in our accountability system in 2015–16. We want to create a positive transition in the addition of 9th and 10th grade assessment, and make sure testing in these grades is adequately established before rolling it into accountability.

### Will there be an alternate assessment in 9th and 10th grade in 2015–16?

Not at this time. We are working to transition into 9th and 10th grade testing as this will be the first time we'll be assessing in these grades. During these first transitional years for testing in these grades all students, including those who are typically assessed using the 1% alternate assessment, are welcome to take the PSAT. If an IEP team determines and documents in a student's IEP that the PSAT is not appropriate for that student, the student will not be penalized for not taking it. MDE will convene a group of stakeholders who routinely work with students who take alternate assessments in Michigan to seek their input on what is the most appropriate and meaningful way to assess students in these grades as we move forward.

#### Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov).

For accountability questions, please email [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov).

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.