Spring 2017 M-STEP Test Administration Dramatically Improved Over Time

Since the first administration of M-STEP in 2015, everyone involved in the testing process has learned a lot—and it shows! This year’s data uncovers a lot to celebrate at the close of the 2017 testing season. Here are some highlights of our growing successes over the last three years.

**2017 M-STEP Test Administration Recap**

- Test Administration went smoothly for most schools. In a survey of test administrators:
  - the number of respondents reporting “good” or “very good” experiences increased in 2017 for every test
  - MDE-developed resources received high marks for being helpful in test administration
  - online test tools were rated "helpful for staff and students" by 95% of those surveyed
- 2017 M-STEP Online Test Sessions Completed: 3,136,639
- M-STEP was first administered in 2015 and was the first state test administered on computer:

(Continued on next page)
80% of students took M-STEP on computer in 2015

98% of students took M-STEP on computer in 2017

The number of incident reports (noted testing deviations) declined nearly 90% since 2015 from a high in 2015 of 9,669 to 1,198 in 2017.

In a survey of test administrators, 94% of respondents rated online incident reporting as “easy to use” and rated MDE’s response as “timely,” in providing an adequate resolution.

Many enhancements (first introduced by the state and school districts in 2016) have made M-STEP more manageable, less time consuming, and more responsive to individual students.

Testing time has been reduced by 2 ½ - 8 hours for most students. Most student’s completed the tests within 4-8 hours depending on grade—less than 1% of instruction time.

Computer adaptive testing (CAT) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments for grades 3-8 introduced a more personalized test experience for students and a more precise measurement of learning.

Preliminary results were available within 48 hours, often within as few as 24-36 hours.

Statewide results and parent reports will be delivered to schools by the beginning of the next (traditional) school year.

The MDE continues to analyze administration information to improve and enhance assessments.

The MDE experienced a corresponding drop in calls to the customer support center and continues to work towards improving customer support response rates. Among survey respondents who called the MDE for customer support:

92% reported they received a timely response

90% reported the MDE adequately resolved their concern.

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required content areas for federal reporting purposes and also for a possible accountability exception to the participation requirement. PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and WorkKeys will NOT be used for accountability calculations in Spring 2017, so schools will not need to submit a reason a student did not take one of these three tests.

Please do not file an Incident Report as part of the Verification of Students Not Tested process. Incident Reports are only required if a test administration or security irregularity occurred.

**Please note:** The Verification of Answer Documents for M-STEP and MI-Access closes **June 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM**. Additionally, the Verification of Enrollment for SAT, M-STEP, and MI-Access closes **June 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM**. After the 5:00 PM deadline on June 22, 2017, schools will **no longer** able to report answer document issues or submit Student Record Maintenance (SRM) in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) to be included in assessment and accountability reporting for the Spring 2017 SAT, M-STEP, and MI-Access.

You can find complete instructions for the Verification of Not Tested in the Accountable Students & Test Verification document on the Secure Site Training web page (www.michigan.gov/securesttetraining) under the Accountable Students & Test Verification section. It is advised that you review the instructions to be sure you are reviewing and submitting Not Tested reasons correctly.

**Fall 2017 WIDA Workshop Registration is Now Open**

The Office of Assessment and Accountability (OSA) and WIDA are offering two free workshops in August that may be of interest to English Learner (EL) educators, building-level administrators, and WIDA test coordinators. The workshops are designed to offer in-depth training for administering the online and paper-based screener assessments. For more information and to register for a workshop, go to the [Fall 2017 WIDA Workshops Registration page](https://baameap.wufoo.com/forms/fall-2017-wida-registration/). Space is limited, so early registration is recommended. Additional WIDA workshops for the fall will be announced mid-August, so keep watching the Spotlight for more details.

**Workshop 1: WIDA Online Screener Training**

This workshop is designed for test administrators of the online WIDA Screener English language proficiency assessment in grades 1 through 12. During this workshop, participants will work collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of the administration of the assessment. This includes learning to administer the online test to the students. Attention will be given to the scoring of speaking and writing sections of the assessment with practice items and the speaking and writing scoring scales. All participants must have computers or tablets and an internet connection to access sample items and the WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS).

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Date of Workshop:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 4 PM (8:00 – 9:00 AM registration and breakfast)

**Location:** Library of Michigan, Lake Michigan Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48915

**Workshop 2: WIDA Paper Screener Training**

This workshop is designed for test administrators of the paper-based WIDA Screener in grades 1 through 12. During this workshop, participants will work...
collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of the how to administer the assessment. This includes test administration beginning with the entry task, and then continuing to Path A or Path B. Attention will be given to the administration and scoring of speaking and writing sections of the assessment using practice items, scoring scales, and the scoring calculator.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Date of Workshop:** Thursday, August 17, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (8:00 – 9:00 AM registration and breakfast)

**Location:** Library of Michigan, Lake Michigan Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48915

If you have questions about these workshops, or need help with registration, please contact baa@michigan.gov, or call 877-560-8378 (Option 8).

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**SAT Corner**

Information on SAT™, PSAT 8/9™, and PSAT10™ provided by the College Board

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

- call the Michigan Educator Hotline: 866-870-3127 (select Option 1)
- contact the Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select Option 4)
- email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

**Test Results Embargo Reminder**

Once test scores are available to educators on June 27, 2017, please remember that all test results are embargoed until notification from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that the embargo has been lifted. This will occur when school and district aggregated results are made publicly available through the MISchoolData portal. PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT results may be shared with building and district staff to support their work with students, school improvement, and other internal efforts. However, it is NOT permissible to share any school, district, or state-level results with parents, the community, or other external parties until the embargo is lifted by the MDE. School Board meetings are considered open meetings; therefore, the sharing of embargoed assessment results at these meetings is not permissible until the embargo is lifted.
**Important Dates**

**Approaching Deadlines!**

June 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM:
- **M-STEP, MI-Access, and SAT** Grades 3-8, 11, and required 12 Verification of Enrollment for Accountability window **DEADLINE**

June 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM:
- **M-STEP and MI-Access** Verification of Answer Documents **DEADLINE**

June 29, 2017 at 5:00 PM:
- **SAT, M-STEP, and MI-Access** Verification of Not Tested **DEADLINE**

**September 2017**

September 11 – October 6, 2017:
- The Michigan Department of Education’s **Fall 2017 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** testing window

Mid-September 2017:
- **DEADLINE** – **Student Record Maintenance (SRM) English Learner (EL) Exits** must be submitted and certified using an [As of Date] on or before June 30, 2017 AND an [LEP Exit Date] on or before June 30, 2017.

**July – August 2017**

August 1, 2017:
- Transition to **NEW WIDA Screener**

August 1 – October 5, 2017:
- Pre-identification on the Secure Site for the fall **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** (K-2)

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**Have Questions?**

Email [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov) for assessment questions.

Email [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov) for accountability questions.

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