

# Spotlight



## on Student Assessment and Accountability

September 10, 2015

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### MDE Seeks Input from Districts on Local Assessments to Guide New Assessment Inventory Group

In the interest of reducing time spent assessing individual students, State Superintendent Brian Whiston will be creating an Assessment Vision Group. In order to provide valuable background information and guiding points for this group, the Michigan Department of Education has developed a brief district survey to gather information on local student assessments currently in use. The survey will be distributed through MAISA and the General Education Leadership Network (GELN). Survey information is needed on or before September 21, 2015. For more information, please contact [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov) or call 877-560-8378.

### M-STEP Administrator Survey Results

Two weeks ago, we provided a snapshot of the results of two of the four M-STEP surveys conducted to gather feedback from key stakeholders on ways to improve our assessment system. The surveys reviewed in the previous Spotlight were conducted among students and parents, and in part contributed to positive changes announced in our [August 20, 2015 Spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_8-20-15_497865_7.pdf) ([http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight\\_8-20-15\\_497865\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_8-20-15_497865_7.pdf)).

In this week's edition, we will be sharing a snapshot of key findings from the [Spring 2015 M-STEP Administrator Survey](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_M-STEP_Administrator_Survey_Results_499682_7.pdf) ([http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring\\_2015\\_M-STEP\\_Administrator\\_Survey\\_Results\\_499682\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_M-STEP_Administrator_Survey_Results_499682_7.pdf)), as well as links to the complete survey information and findings documents. The final survey conducted with technology staff will be featured next week in the September 17, 2015 Spotlight.

Key:



information Tech Coordinators also need to know

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Snapshot of Administrator Survey Information and Findings

In June 2015, the MDE administered a survey to Michigan educators at the school and district level who took part in planning or administering the 2015 M-STEP.

Survey questions focused on the value and usefulness of:

- M-STEP Online Administration Training Videos in providing the information and instructions needed to coordinate the M-STEP Online Administration.
- Online Tools Training (OTT) in familiarizing students and staff with the online M-STEP tools and format of new item types.
- The staggered testing window schedule in assessing all students.
- The M-STEP engine (INSIGHT) tools and designated supports and accommodations.

The survey also collected information on:

- Test administration experiences and difficulties.
- Customer technical support in various phases of test administration.
- Overall experience with the M-STEP online administration during Spring 2015.

Survey respondents filled various roles in the rollout of the online administration of the M-STEP in schools and districts. Survey responses came from Assessment Administrators (53.11%), Assessment Proctors (19.93%), and Building Assessment Coordinators (13.57%). A smaller percentage of respondents came from various district roles (12.81%).

## Key Findings:

### Online Administration Training Videos

- Over three-quarters (78%) of Building Assessment Coordinators and 73% of Assessment Administrators, Proctors, and Accommodations Providers said the training video provided the information and instruction needed to administer the M-STEP online.

### Online Tools Training

- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of respondents said the Online Tools Training (OTT) was helpful in familiarizing students and staff with the M-STEP online tools and the format of new item types.
  - More than 60% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed with statements affirming the usefulness of the tool for students and for staff.

### Suggestions to Improve the M-STEP Test Administration Schedule

Survey participants were asked, “What suggestions do you have for improving the M-STEP test administration schedule for Spring 2016?”

- The most common response included the suggestion to reduce the amount of time required for testing, thus lessening the burden placed on test-takers, computer lab/library availability, and staff.

For more detailed information on the key findings of the [Spring 2015 M-STEP Administrator Survey](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_M-STEP_Administrator_Survey_Results_499682_7.pdf), ([http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring\\_2015\\_M-STEP\\_Administrator\\_Survey\\_Results\\_499682\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_M-STEP_Administrator_Survey_Results_499682_7.pdf)), go to the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) ([www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep)) in the "What's New" section.

## Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Updates

### Pre-ID for Kindergarten Students Closes September 16, 2015

Please make certain the KEA coordinator within your district has completed the pre-identification process for Kindergarten students in the Secure Site by September 16, 2015, at 5:00 PM to ensure students are loaded into the TS GOLD system.

Two steps of pre-identification must be done for KEA students on the Secure Site:

1. Each student must be pre-identified to the KEA assessment using one of the pre-ID methods, and
2. Students need to be assigned to an online testing session on the Secure Site. Step 2 cannot be completed until teachers participating in this year's KEA have completed the Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) module.

Once both pre-identification steps and the IRR module have been completed, students will be loaded into the TS GOLD System. Instructions for both of these processes can be found on the [Secure Site Training](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining) web page ([www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining)) in the Quick Reference section.

**Note:** Students enrolled after September 16, 2015 will not be able to participate in the KEA.

Your diligence and cooperation with this deadline is appreciated.

### Bi-Weekly KEA Webinars

- **September 17, 2015, 4-5 PM:** The first of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with the Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- **October 1, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The second of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- **October 15, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The third of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- **October 29, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The final bi-weekly webinar for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.

### KEA and Assessment Crosswalks

Visit the MDE [KEA Website](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_65339---,00.html): ([http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_65339---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_65339---,00.html)) for useful comparison crosswalks of the KEA and other assessments including: DRA2, DRA2 Word Analysis, DIBELS and PALS. These informative crosswalks can reduce time for teachers implementing the KEA by providing connections between the assessments.

### WIDA Training Update Alert

Earlier this week, WIDA ACCESS coordinators and administrators should have received an email from the WIDA consortium announcing the availability of new training resources. The Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) would like to alert users that these training items are *consortium-focused* resources and not necessarily Michigan-specific. While these training materials are helpful, they include references to functionality within Assessment Management System (AMS) that will not be available to Michigan users. OSA will provide more detailed information on the list of training resources that are specific to Michigan in the coming weeks.

## MSDS LEP Exit Reminder

The window to exit Limited English Proficient (LEP)/ English Learner (EL) students as proficient is available **now through 11:59 PM, September 16, 2015** in the MSDS Student Record Maintenance (SRM) 2014-15 Collection. To exit a student as proficient, districts must submit the LEP Component with LEP Exit Reason “50” along with an LEP exit date that is on or before June 30, 2015. It is important to note that any student who has not been exited as proficient during the 2014-15 school year will be considered as LEP in the upcoming 2015–16 school year.

The above message was also sent in the CEPI Announcements email to MSDS users on August 19, 2015 and September 2, 2015.

The Entrance and Exit Protocol to be used in determining whether a student is eligible to exit LEP services can be found on the Office of Field Services (OFSs) Title III - [English Learner & Immigrant Education Programs](http://mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40078---,00.html) webpage ([http://mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_30334\\_40078---,00.html](http://mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40078---,00.html)).

For questions or clarifications on the Entrance and Exit Protocol, please contact: Shereen Tabrizi, Manager of the Special Populations Unit/Title III Director, [OFSSpecialPops@michigan.gov](mailto:OFSSpecialPops@michigan.gov).

## Input Sought on New Alternate Content Standards

The Michigan Department of Education is seeking educator review and input on the draft alternate content standards for English language arts and mathematics. The draft standards form the basis of instruction and assessment of students with significant cognitive impairments. Students receiving classroom instruction in alternate content standards are assessed with Michigan’s alternate state assessment, MI-Access.

The draft alternate content standards are referred to as Essential Elements, and are aligned with Michigan’s K-12 English language arts and mathematics standards. The Essential Elements were developed by the Dynamic Learning Maps consortium with help from Michigan educators.

Michigan educators have also created “Range of Complexity” descriptions for each state-assessable Essential Element. The range of complexity serves to provide guidance on possible milestones leading up to the target Essential Element. Students will be at varying places along the range of complexity while working toward the target Essential Element.

Michigan seeks input on the Essential Elements, and in particular, the range of complexity for each of the state-assessable Essential Elements. The Essential Elements illustrating ranges of complexity are found on the [MI-Access web site](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) ([www.michigan.gov/mi-access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access)). Once on the web site, click on the link [ELA and Mathematics Essential Elements](http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_28463-18034--,,00.html) ([http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_28463-18034--,,00.html](http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_28463-18034--,,00.html)) in the “What’s New” section.

Once on that page, you will find links to the Draft Alternate Standards for English Language Arts and the Draft Alternate Standards for Mathematics. The “Public Comment” section contains links to the surveys by content area and grade. Please review the Draft Alternate Standards for each content area and grade, and then complete the corresponding content- and grade-specific survey. Your feedback is an important step to ensure the Essential Elements and its ranges of complexity are appropriate for the student population served and show suitable levels of student progression. The surveys will remain open through September 30, 2015. An alternate way to provide input: send your comments by email to [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov) using the subject line ‘Essential Elements Feedback’.

## SAT Corner

*Information provided by the College Board*

### Spring 2016 SSD Webinar -- September 16, 2015

With the fall 2015 accommodations request behind us, it's time to begin thinking about accommodations request for Spring 2016! The good news is that for any students approved for College Board accommodations for the PSAT/ NMSQT, or other College Board assessments such as AP, there is nothing more that needs to be done! Students already approved for accommodations are ready for spring testing unless there is a change in the types of accommodations needed.

While there is still plenty of time before the spring accommodation deadline, we encourage starting early. Therefore to assist you in the process, the College Board invites you to participate in a webinar regarding the College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) on **Wednesday, September 16, 2015 from 3:30-5:00 PM**. The goal of this webinar is to provide an overview of the accommodation request process and provide the information necessary to submit requests for the Spring 2016 PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT assessments. Come learn about the SSD Online system, understand the College Board guidelines, and get all of your questions answered by College Board experts!

### Implementation Training Workshops

Our workshops have been filling up quickly. The workshops with seats available are listed below, so please register today. We will be adding additional workshops and webinars soon. Check back for dates and more information in the coming weeks.

- [College Board Counselor Workshops](http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops?field_workshop_state_value=Michigan)  
(Morning Session, 9 AM - Noon)  
([http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops?field\\_workshop\\_state\\_value=Michigan](http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops?field_workshop_state_value=Michigan))

- ▶ Wayne State University  
September 22, 2015
- ▶ Western Michigan University - Kalamazoo  
September 28, 2015
- ▶ Michigan State University  
September 29, 2015
- ▶ Central Michigan University  
October 6, 2015
- ▶ Northern Michigan University  
October 8, 2015

- **College Board Implementation Workshops** for state-administered Spring 2016 assessments  
(Afternoon Session, 1 PM – 4 PM)

- ▶ [Central Michigan University](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510061)  
October 6, 2015  
(<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510061>)
- ▶ [Northern Michigan University](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510081)  
October 8, 2015  
(<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510081>)

### Reminders for Spring 2016 Testing

- Be sure to update your coordinator contact information in EEM by September 18, 2015!
- Material orders for Spring 2016 PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT will be integrated with MDE's Secure Site; therefore please do NOT place orders in College Board ordering systems. College Board and MDE will be releasing information about Spring 2016 testing in future Spotlights over the next several weeks.

Along with Spotlights, the College Board will continue to update information about the spring implementation on our [Michigan website](https://collegeboard.org/michigan).  
(<https://collegeboard.org/michigan>).

## Important Dates

### Approaching Deadlines!

#### MSDS

- **September 16, 2015:** The 2015 Graduation Rate Appeals Window in MSDS will close.

For the most up-to-date information on the appeals window, please visit the [CEPI Graduation and Dropout Information](http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html) web page ([http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986\\_50502\\_56418---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html)). If you have any questions, please send an email to CEPI customer support at [CEPI@michigan.gov](mailto:CEPI@michigan.gov) or call (517) 335-0505 and follow the prompts.

- **September 16, 2015, 11:59 PM:** Deadline to exit students from LEP (see related article on page 4)

#### KEA

- **September 16, 2015, 5:00 PM:** Deadline for Pre-Identification of Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) students in the secure site to ensure they are loaded into the TS GOLD system.
- **September 17, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The first of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.

### September

#### SAT, WorkKeys, and PSAT

- **September 18, 2015:** Critical deadline for all SAT, WorkKeys, and PSAT roles to be identified and entered into the EEM.

### October

#### KEA

- **October 1, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The second of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- **October 6, 2015:** MME Webcast – Save the date!
- **October 15, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The third of four bi-weekly webinars for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- **October 29, 2015, 4–5 PM:** The final bi-weekly webinar for KEA participants to dialogue with OSA staff and each other regarding the success and challenges of KEA implementation.
- ▶ Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html), ([http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709\\_70117-280911--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html))

#### 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.