Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

September 17, 2015

Reminder for Spring 2016 MME Testing

College Board and ACT are preparing for the test center set-up and establishment processes to begin. Please verify the following contact information is correct in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) at (www.michigan.gov/eem). If needed please contact your district EEM representative to make the appropriate updates by September 18, 2015. Please see the September 3rd Spotlight (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_9-3-15_499078_7.pdf) for additional information.

- WorkKeys Test Coordinator (Building)
- **New** SAT Test Coordinator (Building)
- **New** SAT Backup Test Coordinator (Building)
- **New** SAT Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator (Building)
- **New** PSAT Backup Coordinator (Building)
- **New** PSAT 10 Test Coordinator (Building)
- **New** PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator (Building)

2015-16 Annual Education Report (AER) Requirements

The following is information from a memo regarding the 2015–16 Annual Education Report (AER) requirements. This memo is also available on MDE's Memos page (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_36344---,00.html).

SUBJECT: 2015-16 Annual Education Report Update

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) sent a memorandum on May 7, 2015 stating that "districts and schools will not be required to distribute Annual Education Reports (AERs)

and the related cover letters this summer." This decision was made pending the approval of the MDE's ESEA Flexibility Request and the availability of data resulting from the new accountability testing conducted during the 2014–15 school year.

The U.S. Department of Education renewed the MDE's ESEA Flexibility Request on August 13, 2015. A cross-office committee is working to simplify the process for compliance with Sections 1111 and 1116 of ESEA requiring public report cards (AERs and cover letters). Website information is being updated, reporting deadlines are being discussed, and preparations are being made to communicate the revised 2015–16 AER requirements to all local educational agencies (LEAs).

Accountability data for the 2014–15 school year will not include school/district proficiency targets or final accountability outcomes due to Michigan's transition to the M-STEP. Full accountability information will resume as a part of the Annual Education Report starting with 2015–16 data.

Currently no action is needed with AERs for 2015–16; the MDE will communicate the AER requirements for 2015-16 as soon as the process is clarified. When the next AER communication is released, it will contain a revised Frequently Asked Questions document to clarify procedural changes and identify key deadlines for the 2015–16 AER cycle.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Radke at radkem@michigan.gov or Dave Judd at juddd@michigan.gov.

M-STEP Technology Survey

Last week, we profiled the third of four M-STEP surveys, conducted to gather feedback from key stakeholders on ways to improve our assessment system. In this week's edition, we will be highlighting the results of our fourth and final survey from the Spring 2015 M-STEP Technology Survey (http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_M-STEP_technology_Survey_500100_7.pdf).

The surveys reviewed in the previous Spotlights were conducted among administrators, students and parents, and in part contributed to positive changes. Detailed information on all surveys is available on the M-STEP web page (www.michigan.gov/mstep) in the "What's New" section.

Snapshot of Technology Survey Information and Findings

To gather valuable technology-related school and district information and experiences during the first M-STEP administration, on May 26, 2015 the MDE launched a survey among Michigan school, district and ISD Technology and/or assessment personnel involved in the online administration of the 2015 M-STEP. The survey had 277 respondents.

Survey questions focused on the type of network connection used for student devices; device platforms used to administer the assessment; and the number of schools supported by each respondent.

The survey also collected information on:

- Usefulness of the Technology User Guide for staff in installing and configuring the required software.
- Value of M-STEP Technology Training Videos for staff in configuring the software needed to administer the assessment
- Helpfulness of M-STEP Online Administration and Training Videos, Technology Quick Start Guide, and Technology Webinars in guiding staff through the process of preparing their schools for the M-STEP online administration
- Ease of installing the Testing Site Manager and the INSIGHT software
- Use of the Load Simulator tool and Load Balancer hardware and software configuration
- Use and value of technical support prior to and during testing

- Preferred communication method to receive updates and other important information
- Future technology purchasing plans

Survey respondents filled various roles during the M-STEP administration including: District Technology Coordinator (55%), District and School Technology Support (27%), and District and School Assessment Coordinators (11%). A smaller percentage of respondents had various other district roles (7%).

Key Findings

Network Connection and Device Platforms Used on Student Devices

- Over two-thirds of those surveyed used a combination of wired and wireless connections. Twenty percent used wired only and 13% wireless only.
- The most commonly used operating systems reported: Windows 7 (78%), Chromebooks (43%), Windows XP (16%), Windows 8 (14%) and OS 10.9 (6%) or 10.10 (6%).

Usefulness of the Technology User Guide in Installing and Configuring the Required Software

- Of those who used the guide, nearly 90% "agreed" or "strongly agreed" the User Guide contained the information needed to install and configure the required software for the M-STEP online administration.

Installing the Testing Site Manager (TSM) software

- Of those who installed the software, 84% "agreed" or "strongly agreed" installing the TSM was straightforward and easy.

Use of Technical Support Prior to and During M-STEP Administration

- 35% contacted technical support prior to test administration.

- 55% contacted technical support during test administration.
- Of those who contacted technical support, over one-quarter (25%) rated the service as "very helpful," 42% thought service was "helpful," 19% thought it was "somewhat helpful," 13% said it was "not very" or "not helpful."

School/District Technology Expansion Purchasing Plans

- Chromebook: 77%
- Windows: 65%
- iPad: 36%

School/District Plans to Go To 1:1 Devices

- 16% indicated plans to go to 1:1 Devices.
- 68% did not have plans.
- 13% already had 1:1 Devices.

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 (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) 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 using the subject line 'Essential Elements Feedback'.

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

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)

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.

Spotlight

SAT Corner

Information provided by the College Board

Do Your Part - Update Information in Educational Entity Master (EEM)

As we prepare for the upcoming College Board implementation workshops and the MME Webinar, we are quickly finalizing many details. In the coming weeks, College Board will begin ensuring that all Michigan schools have an attending institution code and test center code to support spring testing. A key part of helping us make this happen is ensuring your Test Coordinator contacts in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) are up to date. We will be relying on the Test Coordinator contact information for several important communications later this fall. College Board will provide a notice to the Test Coordinator contacts confirming your school is ready to test. For schools requiring off-site testing locations, we will be providing more information about submitting an off-site testing location request. Lastly, College Board will be reaching out to private schools to determine your intent to participate in the spring testing window so that we can make sure your schools are set up appropriately. For private schools planning to participate in the SAT, you must complete all three components of MME testing: SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP.

Reminders for Spring 2016 Testing

- Be sure to verify your coordinator contact information is correct in EEM. If needed, please contact your district EEM representative to make the appropriate updates 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 Spotlight over the next several weeks.

- Be prepared with the access you need. Create a College Board Professional Account (https://account.collegeboard.org/professional/viewCreateAccountAction). College Board Professional accounts are required to gain access to our SSD Online (https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online) system as well as our K–12 reporting portal.

- As you are looking at staffing for test day, please keep in mind that any staff with children or those that have students residing in the same household, cannot have access to any test materials for the same assessment(s) the child is taking before, during, or after test day. For example, if a staff member's child will be taking the SAT, he/she cannot serve as testing staff for the SAT, however he/she may serve as testing staff for PSAT 10 or PSAT 8/9.

College Board Accommodations

Thank you to everyone who participated in this week's webinar on accommodations. We are committed to continuing our partnership with MDE and other state organizations to share the latest information and conduct further training. We will be posting the meeting materials and FAQ to our website (https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan?excmpid=MTG308-AL-1-mat) in the coming weeks. We also will be scheduling additional SSD webinars.

Along with Spotlight, the College Board will continue to update information about the spring implementation on our Michigan website (https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/state-partnerships/michigan?excmpid=MTG308-AL-1-mat).