

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

September 29, 2016

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Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Administration Begins Monday

The benchmark assessment window for students in grades 1 and 2 begins on **Monday, October 3, 2016** and runs through **Friday, October 21, 2016**. Schools/districts can still choose to administer **Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** and can pre-identify students on the Secure Site through the end of testing. However, make sure to allow students enough time to practice and become familiar with the assessment using the Online Tools Training (OTT) available on eDIRECT.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will provide the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. These online assessments, which are developed with Michigan educators for Michigan students and educators, contain two parts each in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Each part is expected to take students approximately 30-40 minutes. Or districts may choose to use a different benchmark assessment tool. There is no planned high stakes accountability for benchmark assessments.

If a district chooses to administer a benchmark assessment other than Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment, the chosen assessment must meet the benchmark definition and criteria. The MDE has provided guidance around benchmark assessments by supplying a definition and specifying the criteria, detailed in the [Guidance on Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\)](#) document, which is posted on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath). The MDE does not have an approved list of ELA or mathematics benchmark assessments.

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It is the district's responsibility to ensure their selected benchmark assessment meets both the definition and criteria of benchmark assessments set by MDE.

Students for whom an IEP team determines that Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment is not appropriate would not be required to take the assessment. For example, an IEP team may determine that the best course of instruction for a student is on alternate academic content expectations for ELA and mathematics (Essential Elements). That same IEP team may then determine and document that Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Assessment is not appropriate for the student since it is aligned to the general academic standards, and not the alternate academic standards.

By viewing the Online Assessments Tutorial led by the classroom teacher, students will receive a better understanding of the assessment. Once the tutorial is reviewed by the class, students can practice taking the MDE's online assessment by using the Online Tools Training (OTT).

The MDE has created the following checklists to help you prepare to administer Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments.

District and Building Coordinators: Pre-Administration Activities Checklist

- Assign an Interim Assessment Coordinator for your school in EEM
- **Now – October 21, 2016:** Pre-identify students in the [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/baa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/baa-secure)
- **Now – October 21, 2016:** Create/manage online test sessions in [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com) – Pre-ID must be completed prior to creating test sessions
- Watch the District and Building Coordinator Training Session available in [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com)

- Read the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Test Administration Manual](#) located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) and [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com)
- Read the [Grade 1 Online Test Directions](#) or [Grade 2 Online Test Directions](#) located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) and [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com)

Test Administrators: Pre-Administration Activities Checklist

- Watch and read the following materials located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath):
 - [Early Literacy and Mathematics Assessments Video](#)
 - [Early Literacy and Mathematics Test Administration Manual](#)
 - [Grade 1 Online Test Directions](#) or [Grade 2 Online Test Directions](#) – also located on [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com)
 - [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\) Supports and Accommodations Table and Resources](#)
- Watch the [Online Testing VideoTutorials](#) with your students – located in [eDIRECT](https://mi.drccedirect.com) (https://mi.drccedirect.com) → All Applications → General Information → Test Tutorials
- Provide students with online test practice by having each student complete the [ELA & Math Online Tools Training \(OTT\)](#) (https://wbte.drccedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/) – you **must** access the OTTs using the Chrome Browser

For more information, visit the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\) web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath).

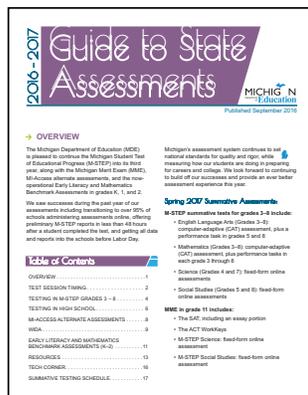
2016 Student Assessment and Accountability Fall Webcast Posted

Thank you to all who attended the 2016 Student Assessment and Accountability Fall Webcast, whether you attended on-site at Wayne RESA, or streamed the webcast remotely. We hope that you found the information presented timely, helpful, and pertinent to your role as a Michigan educator. If you were not able to attend the webcast, a full archived video of the event, broken into sessions is available on MI Streamnet. To view the archived videos, visit the [2016 Student Assessment and Accountability Fall Webcast MI Streamnet web page](#).

A Recently Asked Questions document containing all of the questions from the Fall Webcast will be posted soon.

2016-2017 Guide to State Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has updated the Guide to State Assessments for the 2016-2017 school year. This Guide includes information on test session timing, resources, technical information, and the Summative Testing Schedule for both online and paper/pencil tests (when applicable) for Michigan's statewide assessments – M-STEP, MI-Access, MME, WIDA, and Early Literacy and Mathematics (fall and spring).



The [2016-2017 Guide to State Assessments](#) can be found under the **What's New** section on each assessment's web page:

[M-STEP](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep)

[MI-Access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access)

[MME](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme)

[WIDA](http://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida)

[Early Literacy and Mathematics](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath)

Note: The 2017 Summative Schedule is included in the guide, but is also available as a separate document on each of the web pages listed above.

eDIRECT Access for Spring 2017

All schools administering the M-STEP and MI-Access assessments this spring will need access to eDIRECT. eDIRECT is the application that schools will use to access documents and trainings for online testing, manage student test sessions, assign student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets.

On October 7, 2016, DRC will pull District and School Administrator level users along with users that have the following roles in the Secure Site:

- District Online Technology - AMS & eDIRECT Only
- Nonpublic School Online Tech - AMS & eDIRECT Only
- Public School Online Tech - AMS & eDIRECT Only

These roles will be given access to download the Testing Site Manager (TSM) and INSIGHT only. Student data will not be in eDIRECT until February/ March 2017.

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Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) will continue to pull daily new users with the roles mentioned above from the Secure Site. Users will receive an email with a login and password for eDIRECT from DRC approximately 48 hours after the access is added to the Secure Site.

Anyone can access the training documents and resource materials section without a login and password. However, access to the TSM and INSIGHT requires a login and password.

Detailed instructions for District and School Administrator level users on how to add users to the Secure Site for eDIRECT access can be found on pages 1 and 2 of the [Assigning Roles in Secure Site for AMS & eDIRECT](#) located on the [Secure Site Training web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining). Page 3 of the same document has instructions on how an individual can log on to the Secure Site and request the access directly through the Secure Site for their administrator level user to approve.

New ESSA Notes Newsletter Available

A new issue of [ESSA Notes](#) is now available and was distributed to subscribers on September 28, 2016. The new edition highlights:

- ESSA Accountability Teams Collaborate
- ESSA Foster Care Provisions
- New Guidance from U.S. Department of Education on:
 - Evidence-based decision-making
 - Title II, Part A
 - Title III, English Learners

The newsletter provides news and updates on Michigan's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, and it is available on the [ESSA web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/essa). Just click on the ESSA Notes button and then "9-28-16 ESSA Notes Newsletter." The ESSA web page also contains details about Michigan's ESSA work plan and offers opportunities to stay informed and participate in planning

SAT Corner

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

Highlights for spring 2017

The College Board has been hard at work through the summer preparing for enhancements to the spring 2017 administration. Based on your feedback we are implementing a number of changes for this year including the following.

- **One phone number for College Board support—866-870-3127 (select Option 1)**
Last year we recognize that accessing support may have been confusing or difficult. Therefore, this year, all support for PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT will be accessible through the number above to make things easier for Michigan educators.
- **Michigan-specific testing manuals**
Instead of the College Board standard manuals, we are creating custom manuals for Michigan educators. These manuals will arrive with test shipments; however, an increased number will be available in advance in the training kits shipped to each school and as a download on the [Michigan College Board website](http://www.collegeboard.org/michigan) (www.collegeboard.org/michigan).
- **SAT Test Administration Rosters**
This year rosters will be available for SAT Test Center Supervisors in addition to the SSD Coordinator. The rosters will assist you with room planning and make it easier to determine which students can be tested together.

- **Accommodated Testing Window**

For students with accommodations that appear on the Nonstandard Accommodation Report (NAR), schools will have 10 days to complete student testing. Students approved for 2-day testing will still be required to test on consecutive days.

Please look for more updates in upcoming editions of Spotlight.

Reminder . . . review and update EEM by October 3, 2016

For the state-provided SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 administrations in spring 2017, College Board will pull contact information from the Educational Entity Master (EEM) to drive the establishment processes and other communications. **If EEM information is not accurate, you will NOT receive critical testing communications.** Contact information should be provided, in EEM, for each of the following roles: SAT Test Coordinator, SAT SSD Coordinator, SAT Backup Coordinator, PSAT 10 Test Coordinator, PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator, and PSAT Backup Coordinator.

For returning schools, review the contacts listed in EEM. If changes are required, contact your authorized district EEM user to make the updates. If no changes are needed, no further action is required.

For new schools, you will need to provide the contact information for each role to your district authorized EEM Administrator to be added to EEM.

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If you do not know who the district authorized user is, please contact CEPI at 517-335-0505 or cepi@michigan.gov.

For Private Schools, provide any updates or additions to Tami Feldpausch at nonpublicschools@michigan.gov. If no changes are needed, no further action is required.

Remember to verify and submit any updates/ additions by **October 3, 2016**. College Board will send a confirming email to the Test Coordinator with the attending institution (AI) and test center codes for spring testing in mid-December.

Important Dates

September 2016

Early Literacy and Mathematics

- **Now – Friday, October 21, 2016:** Window for Pre-Identification of students in grades 1 and 2 who will be taking the Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments.

October 2016

Early Literacy and Mathematics

- **October 3 – October 21, 2016:** Window for the Fall 2016 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments for grades 1 and 2.

WIDA

- **Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM:** WIDA Workshops for Interpreting WIDA Score Reports for Instruction – **REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP IS NOW CLOSED.**

WIDA, M-STEP, and MI-Access

- **October 24 – November 23, 2016:** Online Testing Waiver request window

November 2016

WIDA

- **Wednesday, November 2 and Thursday, November 3, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM:** WIDA Workshop for School Leaders: Leading Schools for Language Learner Achievement – **REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP IS NOW CLOSED.**
- **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM:** WIDA Workshop for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. For more information and to register, go to the [Fall 2016 WIDA Workshops Registration page](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fall2016WIDAworkshops) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fall2016WIDAworkshops>). Registration for this workshop is still OPEN, but space is limited.

Recently Asked Questions

Is it too late to pre-identify students for the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments?

No it is not too late. You can pre-identify students on the Secure Site through the end of testing; however, make sure that allow your students enough time to practice and become familiar with the assessment using the Online Tools Training available on eDIRECT.

Once I Pre-ID a student on the Secure Site for Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments, how long before the student is available in eDIRECT?

Students are loaded into eDIRECT from the Secure Site twice a day Monday – Friday, starting Monday, October 3, 2016. So if a student is pre-identified before 11:15 AM, the student should be available in eDIRECT after 12:00 noon. Students who are pre-identified after 11:15 AM, will be available in eDIRECT after 4:00 AM.

I have pre-identified a new student on the Secure Site but I am unable to put them in a test session; what do I do?

Once the student is pre-identified on the Secure Site, the student will be loaded into eDIRECT. You will need to put the student into a test session in eDIRECT.

► Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)

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.