

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

September 7, 2017

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Fall 2017 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment

The benchmark assessment window for students in grades K, 1, and 2 begins on **Monday, September 11, 2017** and runs through **Friday, October 6, 2017**. These benchmark assessments are completely aligned to Michigan's academic content standards, and are administered online. The third grade reading law states that every student in Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 will be assessed in English Language Arts within the first 30 days of school. Schools must select one initial assessment from the approved list for use during the 2017-2018 school year. The MDE Early Literacy Benchmark Assessment is on the approved list of initial assessments.

Schools/districts can still choose to administer the **Michigan Department of Education (MDE) 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.

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.

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Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

District and Building Coordinators: Pre-Administration Activities Checklist

- Assign an Interim Assessment Coordinator for your school in EEM
- **Now – October 6, 2017:** Pre-identify students in the [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/baa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/baa-secure)
- **Now – October 6, 2017:** Create/manage online test sessions in [eDIRECT](https://mi.dracedirect.com) (https://mi.dracedirect.com) – Pre-ID must be completed prior to creating test sessions
- Watch the District and Building Coordinator Training Session available in [eDIRECT](https://mi.dracedirect.com) (https://mi.dracedirect.com)
- Read the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Test Administration Manual](#) located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) and [eDIRECT](https://mi.dracedirect.com) (https://mi.dracedirect.com)
- Read the Online Administration Directions for [Kindergarten](#), [Grade 1](#), and [Grade 2](#) located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) and [eDIRECT](https://mi.dracedirect.com) (https://mi.dracedirect.com)
- Online Administration Directions for [Kindergarten](#), [Grade 1](#), and [Grade 2](#)
- [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.dracedirect.com) (https://mi.dracedirect.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.dracedirect.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).

Test Administrators: Pre-Administration Activities Checklist

- Watch and read the following materials located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath):
 - [Early Literacy and Mathematics Assessments Video](#)
 - [Early Literacy and Mathematics Test Administration Manual](#)

Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) Available NOW on M-STEP Student Reports

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) are now populated on the individual-level student reports (Individual Student Report and Student Overview Report) and in the Student Data File. To view student growth percentiles in the M-STEP reports, sign into the [Secure Site](#) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), select **Reports**, then select **Dynamic Score Reports** in the drop-down menu. Once you are in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site, select either the **Individual Student Report** or the **Student Overview Report** to view student growth percentiles on the table beneath the Performance Level graph.

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SGPs are one way to observe student growth. SGPs compare the performance of Michigan students over multiple years; students with similar scores in previous years are compared to the same students' scores in the current year and are then ranked by percentile. These percentiles range from 1-99; scores close to 50 represent average growth. Higher SGPs indicate higher growth, and lower SGPs indicate lower growth.

On the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) under the **Reporting** Section you can access the following links:

[Spring 2017 M-STEP Guide to Reports](#) – for details regarding Student Growth Percentiles

[Student Growth Percentiles \(SGPs\) web page](#) – contains more information and support on SGPs.

MI-Access Performance Level Descriptors Posted

Standard setting is the methodology used to define levels of achievement or proficiency and the cut-scores corresponding to those levels. For MI-Access, this process helps to determine the cut scores that separate the reported performance levels of “Emerging Toward the Performance Standard,” “Attained the Performance Standard,” and “Surpassed the Performance Standard.”

In the summer of 2017, a standard setting process was completed for MI-Access English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. This was a result of the re-alignment of these assessments to the Essential Elements with Michigan range of complexity. These Essential Elements serve as Michigan's alternate content standards for ELA and mathematics. The standard setting process, which used performance level descriptors (PLDs), involved over 140 educators from

across the state of Michigan. Organized by reported performance levels (emerging, attained, surpassed), the PLDs describe what a student typically performing at each level should be able to do relative to the content standards (Essential Elements with Michigan range of complexity) that are being measured.

The PLDs used in the [MI-Access Standard Setting 2017](#) have been posted to the [MI-Access web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) under **What's New** and **General Information**. These PLDs do not replace the Essential Elements with Michigan Range of Complexity, but rather further describe what students at each performance level should be able to do in relation to those Essential Elements.

WIDA Screener Online Scoring Permissions

Although the WIDA Screener Online test scores students' Reading and Listening tests automatically, educators must still score the Speaking and Writing domains themselves. Because of this, educators responsible for scoring the WIDA Screener Online will need a specific permission turned on in WIDA AMS. District Test Coordinators are responsible for having their educator's scoring permissions assigned in AMS using the following process:

1. Identify all educators who will be responsible for scoring the WIDA Screener Online writing and/or speaking tests.
2. Verify all educators have completed the necessary training to obtain certification to score the WIDA Screener writing and/or speaking tests. District Coordinators can review scoring certifications in their Secure Portal account on the [wida website](http://www.wida.us) (www.wida.us).

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3. Verify all educators have a WIDA AMS account. For information on setting up a WIDA AMS account please see the [WIDA Screener & W-APT Policy Manual](#) on the MDE [WIDA web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/wida) under the **WIDA Screener and Kindergarten W-APT** section.
4. Contact DRC Customer Service at 1-877-560-8378 (Option 5), or email wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and request assignment of user scoring domains.
5. Provide Customer Service with the following information for all users who need to be assigned in order to score:
 - a. User Name
 - b. User Email
 - c. Domain to be assigned (writing, speaking, or both)
6. Customer Service will assign the users as indicated, which will allow them to begin scoring tests within the Educator Scoring application in WIDA AMS.

Paper WIDA Screener Downloading Options

Educators currently have the option to use paper WIDA Screener materials for students in grades 1-12 who are considered recent arrivals (attended U.S. schools for 12 months or less) and for students whose disability may require a paper form of the assessment. The following Paper WIDA Screener materials can be downloaded from educators' secure accounts on the [WIDA website](#) (www.wida.us):

- Test Administrator Manual
- Test Administrator's Script
- Student Response Booklets

To find these materials, educators should log in at wida.us. Then select **My Account & Secure Portal** → **WIDA Screener Paper** → **Materials & Resources**.

WIDA Testing Software

AMS was updated earlier this week with this year's versions of the Testing Site Manager (version 9.2) and INSIGHT (version 8.0). TSMs that were already installed will auto-update, so no action is needed there. This is the same INSIGHT client used for M-STEP testing, so no action is needed if your school (1) has already mass-deployed the INSIGHT 8.0 client that was posted to eDIRECT this summer, or (2) plans to update INSIGHT by having students or staff click "Upgrade" the next time they use INSIGHT.

If you have not installed anything for WIDA or WIDA Screener Online, that software is available and is not expected to change before spring testing.

DRC Central Office

In the [August 3, 2017 Spotlight](#) article **Testing Technology Updates**, it was announced that the release of its Central Office software would be in early September. Central Office is the next generation of the Testing Site Manager (TSM) backend. Use of Central Office is optional, and the TSMs will continue to be supported. The public release of Central Office has been delayed until **September 14, 2017** to include last-minute bug fixes to the installer.

While the software is nearly here, the documentation on how to install and use it is not. That is expected late this calendar year. There will also be a webinar available, in addition to the usual Technology Coordinator webinar, in October.

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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)
- email michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

Fall and Spring Assessments

Like last year, schools do NOT need to order materials for the primary date of the Michigan-provided SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 assessments in Spring 2018 through the College Board's test ordering system. If you elect to participate in fall testing of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9, materials should be ordered directly through College Board. Fall testing of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9 is not provided by the Michigan Department of Education.

Get Ready for Spring 2018 – Register for Fall Counselor and Implementation Workshops

The counselor workshop is free and open to all counselors across the country. At the workshop, you'll receive updates on College Board programs, as well as tools, tips, and resources designed to make it easier for you to clear a path to college and career success for your students.

To register, click [here](http://collegeboard.org/cw) (collegeboard.org/cw).

The implementation workshop is free and provides information about the Michigan-provided SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for grade 9 administrations in Spring 2018. It will also provide a brief introduction of the PSAT 8/9 for grade 8 that will be coming in Spring 2019. The workshop is important for building administrators, counselors, and SAT and PSAT supervisors.

Learn about:

- the latest enhancements and changes for the spring administration
- preparing for and administering the College Board exams
- spring implementation timelines
- our professional development offerings to prepare you for Spring 2018

To register, click [here](http://collegeboard.org/satschoolday) (collegeboard.org/satschoolday).

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Counselor Workshop Registration* and Breakfast

9:00 AM – Noon: Counselor Workshop Presentation

Noon – 1:00 PM: SAT School Day and PSAT Registration* and Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 PM: SAT School Day and PSAT Presentation

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Attendees can sign up for either or both workshops; however, ***registration for each workshop is required**. Space is still available for all locations!

Registration and Confirmation for College Board Workshops

Due to input from our workshop participants, the College Board has revised registration and confirmation procedures for our workshops this fall. The same procedures apply for our counselor workshops and our SAT implementation workshops. Please make sure that you are looking for the reminder emails, the “Check In” emails, and that you follow directions to ensure confirmation and certificate distribution.

Registering Online

- Use your existing College Board Education Professional login information.
- Instantly receive a registration confirmation email.
- Registration modifications can be done online. You will need your confirmation number from the registration confirmation email.
- Group registration and registration on behalf of someone else is now available.

Two Weeks Before the Event

- You will receive a reminder email with additional information about the event location, parking information and passes, if applicable.

Checking In Online

- **You will receive an email 72 hours before the event to check-in.**
- Click the link within the email and enter one of the two possible search criteria.
- Select your name and click **Check in**.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** A successful check-in will return you to the initial check-in page.
- If you do not check in within 24 hours of the event, you will receive an email with a reminder to check in.

Event Certificate

- Proof of attendance will be available online at the conclusion of the event and only to those who have checked in. We will email a link to access and print your certificate.

Schedule of Workshops

Dates and locations of the workshops are listed on the following page.

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

Schedule of Workshops

Kalamazoo	Monday, September 18, 2017	Western Michigan University - Kalamazoo
Mount Pleasant	Tuesday, September 19, 2017	Central Michigan University
East Lansing	Tuesday, September 19, 2017	Michigan State University
Grand Rapids	Tuesday, September 19, 2017	Northview High School
Jackson	Wednesday, September 20, 2017	Jackson Intermediate School District
Marquette	Monday, September 25, 2017	Northern Michigan University
Detroit	Tuesday, September 26, 2017	Wayne State University
Dearborn	Wednesday, September 27, 2017	University of Michigan-Dearborn
Boyne City	Wednesday, September 27, 2017	Boyne District Library
Saginaw	Thursday, September 28, 2017	Saginaw Intermediate School District
Waterford	Friday, September 29, 2017	Oakland Intermediate School District

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Important Dates

September 2017

Now - morning of October 6, 2017:

- Pre-Identification of students in grades K, 1, and 2 who will be taking the Fall 2017 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

September 11 – October 6, 2017:

- The Michigan Department of Education's Fall 2017 **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** testing window

September 13, 2017 at 11:59 PM:

- **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

Recently Asked Questions . . .

In the 2016–2017 school year, Kindergartners were only tested in the spring. Is that still true for the 2017–2018 school year?

Kindergartners will be testing in both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

The third grade reading law states that every student in Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 will be assessed in English Language Arts within the first 30 days of school. Schools must select one initial assessment from the approved list for use during

the 2017-2018 school year. The MDE Early Literacy Benchmark Assessment is on the approved list of initial assessments.

For information on the MDE Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment, go to the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath).

Have Questions?

Email BAA@michigan.gov for assessment questions.

Email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov for accountability questions.



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