

Spring 2021 Summative Assessment Flexibilities



The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and its assessment vendors have worked together to provide flexibilities for the Spring 2021 administrations of the following assessments. These flexibilities are available this year to help schools adhere to state and local health and safety guidelines required because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- M-STEP in grades 3-8 and 11
- MI-Access in grades 3-8 and 11
- Michigan Merit Exam (MME) including SAT with Essay, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP science and social studies assessments in grade 11
- PSAT 10 in grade 10
- PSAT 8/9 in grade 9
- PSAT 8/9 in grade 8

The main flexibility provided is additional test days and extended testing windows. Another flexibility for Spring 2021 that applies to all assessments relates to students who are receiving remote-only instruction. For this year only, MDE does not support requiring otherwise remote or virtual students to be brought into school solely for the purpose of state assessment. Districts must offer remote or virtual students the opportunity to come into school to take the appropriate state summative assessments. However, those remote-only students are not required to come into school for the sole purpose of taking the assessments.

One flexibility that is often requested is the ability to administer assessments remotely. Remote administrations are **not allowed** for any statewide summative assessment due to various risks including test security and test validity.

M-STEP Flexibilities

Testing Window Extensions

The following extensions have been made to the M-STEP testing windows:

- The first testing window for grades 5, 8, and 11 has been extended by two weeks for a total of six weeks. It now runs April 12 – May 21, 2021.
 - Online testing window – all grades: April 12 – May 21, 2021
 - Paper/pencil testing window – grade 5: April 13 – May 21, 2021
 - Paper/pencil testing window – grade 8: April 14 – May 21, 2021
 - Paper/pencil testing window – grade 11: April 15 – May 21, 2021
- The second testing window for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 has been extended by two weeks for a total of six weeks. It now runs April 26 – June 4, 2021.
 - Online testing window – all grades: April 26 – June 4, 2021
 - Paper/pencil testing window – all grades: April 27 – June 4, 2021

Paper/Pencil Scheduling Flexibilities

For Spring 2021 only, schools may flexibly schedule paper/pencil test administrations within the grade-specific testing window.

- There are no days designated as initial test dates and makeup test dates. Schools may choose the days and the order in which content area assessments are administered.
- Tests must be administered on school days (Monday – Friday) during normal school hours.
- Content-specific tests or test parts should be scheduled early enough in the school day to allow most students to complete the entire test or test part in the same day.
- Students who do not finish the test or test part by the end of the day do not need to resume testing in a 1:1 test administration, and an Incident Report is no longer required. Small groups of students may resume testing together as long as the test administrator can monitor students closely enough to ensure students are not revisiting previously completed sections of their tests. Additional proctors may be required.

Remote Learner Flexibilities

For Spring 2021 only:

- Districts and school must offer and be prepared to administer the M-STEP assessments to students receiving remote- or virtual-only instruction.
- Students receiving all of their instruction remotely or virtually may choose not to come to school or off-site testing location for the sole purpose of taking the M-STEP.
- Remote administration of the assessment is not allowed.

MI-Access Flexibilities

Testing Window Extension

The MI-Access testing window has been extended to a total of eight weeks. It now runs April 12 – June 4, 2021.

Remote Learner Flexibilities

For Spring 2021 only:

- Districts and school must offer and be prepared to administer the MI-Access assessments to students receiving remote- or virtual-only instruction.
- Students receiving all of their instruction remotely or virtually may choose not to come to school or off-site testing location for the sole purpose of taking MI-Access.
- Remote administration of the assessment is not allowed.

SAT, PSAT, and ACT WorkKeys Flexibilities

College Board and ACT have partnered with MDE to offer several flexibilities in Spring 2021. These flexibilities are documented in the [SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9, and ACT WorkKeys Contingency Dates and Flexibility Options for Spring 2021 document](#). This document is located on the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme) and the [PSAT web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/psat).

Additional Resources

MDE has developed several resources specific to the Spring 2021 administrations to assist schools plan for testing during this difficult year. These include:

- [Spring 2021 Summative Assessments Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Safe Testing Planning Guide](#)
- [Safe Testing Planning Template](#)
- [Michigan School Accountability Planning and Response to COVID-19](#)

There are many additional resources available on the various assessment web pages to support districts and schools as they plan for the spring administrations and deliver the assessments. These include:

- Test Administration Manuals and (where appropriate) Test Administration Manuals and Directions for Test Administrators
- Important Date documents in a variety of formats
- Support and Accommodations Guidance documents
- Training for testing staff
- Practice opportunities for students and staff
- Much more

These documents are located on the appropriate web pages:

- [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)
- [PSAT](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat)
- [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath)