

SPRING M-STEP 2016



WHAT'S NEW

During the 2014-15 school year, Michigan rolled out a new assessment program called M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress). The Spring 2016 M-STEP is a 21st Century test given primarily online each spring and is designed to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. These standards, developed *for* educators *by* educators, broadly outline what students should know and be able to do, by subject and grade level —and ultimately how ready they are to enter the workplace, career education training and college.

M-STEP is a summative assessment and is administered to students in the following grades and subjects: English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3–8; science in grades 4, 7 and 11; and social studies in grades 5, 8 and 11.

The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the general assessment for students in grade 11. The MME includes: A free SAT with Essay which will serve as both a college entrance exam and the M-STEP English language arts and mathematics assessments; M-STEP science and M-STEP social studies components; and, the ACT WorkKeys.

This year, we have made several enhancements to M-STEP:

- Students will spend less time testing and more time learning. The test is now 2-8 hours shorter for most students. Depending on grade, M-STEP requires an average a total of 4-8 hours or less than one percent of student instructional time to complete.
- The PSAT is being offered to High school students in grades 9 and 10. The PSAT prepares students for the SAT taken in grade 11.
- High school students in grade 11 will take the SAT, which will serve as both a college entrance *and* the state English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment.
- M-STEP will begin after most spring breaks are over and end before Memorial Day.
- Schools will have flexibility in scheduling the amount of time students spend in a single test session.
- Schools will have access to preliminary student test results within a few days after testing is complete. This preliminary data is a first look for school use only until final results are available.
- Final results should be available to schools prior to the beginning of the next school year. This will include M-STEP parent reports to be distributed by the district.

M-STEP provides an important snapshot of student progress at a state, district, and building level. M-STEP results when combined with classroom work, report cards, local district assessments and other tools, offer a comprehensive view of student progress and achievement. For additional general information on M-STEP click [M-STEP: What it is, What it means - And What it Offers](#).