



## Assessment & Accountability Announcements - Week of October 28, 2013

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This week there are **FIVE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** regarding: **1)** Michigan Department of Education Resumes Work on Implementing Common Core Assessments; **2)** Smarter Balanced Field Tester Deadline Extended for Smarter Balance – Testers Needed; **3)** Dynamic Learning Map Pilot for Students with Severe Cognitive Disabilities – Testers Needed; **4)** Accountable Students & Test Verification Review Period; **5)** September/October 2013 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Newsletter is now available.

### **1) Michigan Department of Education Resumes Work on Implementing Common Core State Standards and Assessments**

State Superintendent Mike Flanagan has directed staff at the Michigan Department of Education to resume all activities helping local school districts implement the Common Core State Standards and statewide assessments, following an “affirmative action” on October 24, 2013 by the Michigan Senate.

The Senate adopted its substitute version of House Concurrent Resolution 11, which was adopted by the House in September. The House has now concurred on the Senate Substitute.

The state legislature had inserted language in the Michigan Department of Education’s Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget prohibiting the department from using any funds on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments “unless an affirmative action of the legislature authorizing implementation of said standards or assessments is provided.”

“I’d like to thank House Speaker Jase Bolger and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville for getting us to the point where we can continue to move forward,” Flanagan said. “To help all our students succeed, our collective work needs to be focused on having rigorous standards; effective and valuable assessments aligned to those standards; and high quality and effective educators.”

The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards as Michigan’s state standards in 2010 and local school districts have been in the process of developing their own curricula to align with those state standards since then.

### **2) Smarter Balanced Field Tester Deadline Extended for Smarter Balance – Testers Needed**

In September, Michigan schools received information through the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) eblast and website about an opportunity to register to indicate their interest in being a part of the Smarter Balanced Field Testing that will occur during Spring 2014. The original deadline to register a school’s interest in

being a part of the Smarter Balanced Field Test in Spring 2014 was Tuesday, October 15, 2013. However, in light of the legislative activity which occurred during October in Michigan, **the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has agreed to extend the deadline for Michigan schools to register to indicate interest in participating in the Spring 2014 Field Testing to Friday, November 8, 2013.**

Information regarding the Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Field Test, including contact information if you have questions, can be found under the “What’s New” section on any of the following web pages:

[www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap)

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

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

The Smarter Balanced Field Test is an excellent opportunity for schools to participate in a computer adaptive assessment, which measures the breadth of the English Language Arts and Mathematics Common Core State Standards using rich item types. Additionally, the Smarter Balanced Field Test provides schools and districts a valuable opportunity to assess their technology readiness for online testing. While there is a need for all grade levels to participate in the Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, there is particular need for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students from Michigan.

If your school is interested in participating in the Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, please go to <http://www.formstack.com/forms/fieldtest-recruitment> and complete the registration information. Please submit your school’s interest in participating in the Smarter Balanced Field Test by the new Michigan deadline of **Friday, November 8, 2013.**

### 3) **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment Consortium Field Test – Testers Needed**

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment Consortium is planning three field tests from January through June 2014 on the new alternate assessment that they are developing for students with severe cognitive disabilities.

Districts are strongly encouraged to participate in all three tests because of the immense value to individual students, educators, and the DLM Consortium. ALL districts who volunteer will be included.

#### **Why participate?**

- By participating in the field tests, you can help ensure that Michigan students and teachers are well represented.
- Students and teachers who participate this year will be more familiar with Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and the computer-based test delivery system when the assessment becomes operational.
- Your participating teachers will have an opportunity to give feedback after each field test that will help improve DLM assessment items and the test delivery system.
- The more students who participate, the more items field tested and available when the test becomes operational.
- The larger the number of students participating in more than one field test, the better able to learn more about how students should move through the learning map. This will allow DLM to better figure out what testlets to administer to different types of students and to determine appropriate approaches for modeling student growth.

#### **When are the field tests?**

There are three field test windows:

- January 15-31
- March 17-April 11
- May 1-end of school year

**What content will be tested?**

Field tests will require students to answer approximately 15 items in both English language arts and mathematics.

**Which students should participate?**

Criteria for field test participants are students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 or high school (9-10 and 11-12) who typically take any of the MI-Access assessments (i.e., Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards).

**How do districts sign up to participate?**

The original deadline to register a district for this field test was Monday, October 14, 2013. However, in light of the legislative activity during October in Michigan involving the Common Core, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment Consortium has agreed to extend the Field Test registration deadline to Monday, November 18, 2013.

**For those who registered earlier this year, no further action is needed.**

If your school district is interested in participating, please complete this survey by Monday, November 18, 2013 using this link [DLM Pilot Survey](#).

For more details on Dynamic Learning Maps, click on the following link:

[http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/moreinfo/external\\_pilot.html](http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/moreinfo/external_pilot.html) and chose "Field Testing" or contact Dr. Joanne Winkelman at [winkelmanj@michigan.gov](mailto:winkelmanj@michigan.gov) or Dr. Adam Wyse at [wysea@michigan.gov](mailto:wysea@michigan.gov).

**4) *Accountable Students & Test Verification Review Period***

There will be a one week review period on the Secure Site to verify student enrollment, demographics, received answer documents, and report reasons why students did not take one of the requirement fall assessments. This function is called Accountable Students and Test Verification (formerly Expected to Test, Tested Roster and Not Tested).

**What can you do now to prepare?**

- a. Find out who your district student pupil accounting person is. This person submits required student data to the state through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).
- b. Assessment and accountability reporting will be taken from the student enrollment and demographic data from the Fall MSDS General Collection and Student Record Maintenance (SRM) submitted with an "as of date" on or before Friday, October 25, 2013. This information comes from the district so you have the ability to check it now and make sure it is accurate. If you find an error in the Fall MSDS General Collection, you can still decertify and make the corrections through Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

- c. Districts can start submitting SRM files now to update student enrollment, exits, and other demographic changes that occurred from student count day through Friday, October 25, 2013 for assessment and accountability purposes.
- d. Ask your teachers to provide a list of students that did not take one of the required MEAP, MEAP-Access or MI-Access content area assessments and the reason why. This will allow you to quickly identify which tests were not taken versus which ones may be missing. This information will also be needed to submit a reason why a student did not take one of the required tests. The Not Tested reason is used for accountability review for possible exemptions and for federal reporting.
- e. Review the Accountable Students and Test Verification section of the *Secure Site Procedure and User Manual* to become familiar with the screens and process. The manual is available by clicking the User Guide link on the Secure Site web pages. Please note that these functions are still under construction so there may be some slight differences between the current manual and the final function.

With these steps you can start now and do not have to wait until the “official” Accountable Students and Test Verification review period.

**5) The September/October Newsletter from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is now available at [SBAC September/October 2013 Newsletter](#).**

**Have Other Questions?**

For assessment questions, please email [BAA@michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@michigan.gov).

For accountability questions, please email [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov).

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.