

Please see **6 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) Virtual Town Hall, 2) Michigan Joins the World Class Instructional and Design (WIDA) Consortium, 3) WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) Login Information, 4) W-APT Secure Site Score Entry Webinar Postponed, 5) Kindergarten Entry Assessment Fall 2013 Pilot and 6) Interim Assessment Pilot Application Window Open Through Tomorrow, Friday, August 9, 2013.

1) Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) Virtual Town Hall

Members of the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) will discuss their recently released recommendations for a statewide educator evaluation system during a virtual town hall for Michigan's school administrators from 11a.m. until noon on Monday, August 12, 2013. The virtual town hall panelists will include:

- Council Chair Deborah Loewenberg Ball, Dean of the University of Michigan School of Education
- Council Member Jennifer Hammond, Ph.D., Grand Blanc High School Principal
- Council Member Joseph Martineau, Ph.D., MDE Deputy Superintendent of Accountability Services
- Superintendent Thomas A. English, North Branch Area Schools, one of 13 districts in the 2012-13 MCEE pilot study

You may log in to the virtual town hall or listen only using your phone line. **Registration is required.** To register, go to <http://www.regonline.com/mceevirtualtownhalladministrators>.

To read the MCEE report and Council member bios, go to www.mcede.org. Questions may be submitted in advance by going to the "Contact" tab. Instructions for submitting questions during the town hall will be provided during the event.

2) Michigan Joins the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium

The Michigan Department of Education has just joined the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium, making it the 32nd State Educational Agency (SEA) to do so since the consortium was created in 2003.

WIDA is a consortium of states dedicated to the design and implementation of high standards and equitable educational opportunities for English learners (ELs). Joining the WIDA Consortium means that Michigan will be implementing the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards for instruction, using the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) to aid in the identification of ELs, and using the ACCESS for ELLs[®] for the summative assessment of its ELs.

The Michigan State Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of the WIDA ELD standards during the November 2012 State Board meeting. The adoption of these standards and linked assessment system will provide districts and the state with many benefits such as greater capacity for enhanced assessment quality, access to broad professional development activities,

continued opportunities for Michigan stakeholder input and involvement in research driven by WIDA for improving instruction and assessment for ELs, which will contribute to their academic success.

The Office of Field Services (OFS) and the Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) are involved as members of several WIDA consortium committees. As a full participating member, Michigan will have greater input into consortium decisions, including choosing directions for new research in the field of English as a second language acquisition.

For more information about upcoming standards training, please contact Shereen Tabrizi - OFS at: 517-373-6066

For more information about upcoming assessment training, please contact Jennifer Paul - OSA at: 517-335-3967

For more information about WIDA, please go to www.wida.us.

3) WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) Login Information

On Thursday, August 1, 2013, the individuals listed as your district's ELPA Coordinator and District Assessment Coordinator in EEM should have received two separate emails from WIDA containing login credentials for the WIDA website (www.wida.us). One email contained the username and the other email contained the password. It is critical that your district received these emails in order to begin downloading and using the W-APT. The secure W-APT section of the WIDA website contains several materials that you are strongly advised to review prior to administering the W-APT in your district:

- W-APT Recorded Webinar Trainings
- W-APT Download and Printing Instructions
- W-APT Test Administration Manuals for Kindergarten and Grades 1-12
- W-APT Scored Student Writing Sample Booklet

If you did not receive these e-mails from WIDA, please check your spam or junk mail folders and/or check with a technology coordinator to be certain that your system is not blocking messages from help@wida.us or widahelp@wcer.wisc.edu.

If you have any questions, concerns or difficulty accessing the materials on the WIDA website, please contact the WIDA Help Desk at 866-276-7735 or email help@wida.us.

If your district did not receive login information, please contact Jason Kolb at kolbj1@michigan.gov or Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguez@c@michigan.gov with the Office of Standards and Assessment.

4) W-APT Secure Site Score Entry Webinar Postponed

The W-APT Secure Site Score Entry Webinar scheduled for Friday, August 9, 2013, has been postponed until further notice. The W-APT score entry function in the Secure Site is currently unavailable, but is anticipated to become available in mid-to-late August. This, however, should not prevent your district from beginning to use the W-APT. Until the W-APT score entry function becomes available in the Secure Site, it is strongly recommended that you use the W-

APT Score Calculator and keep a running record of your students' scores. When the Secure Site score entry function does become available, your district will be expected to enter the W-APT scores of your students.

The W-APT Calculator can be found at www.wida.us/assessment/w-apt/ScoreCalculator.aspx. To use the W-APT calculator, simply choose the student's grade, enter the raw scores by domain and press "calculate."

If you have any questions, concerns or difficulty accessing the W-APT Calculator on the WIDA website, please contact the WIDA Help Desk at 866-276-7735 or email help@wida.us.

If you have any questions about the Secure Site, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

5) Kindergarten Entry Assessment Fall 2013 Pilot

Michigan Department of Education's Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) is still looking for teachers to participate in the Fall 2013 Pilot of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). Michigan chose Teaching Strategies GOLD online for its KEA. For more information about Teaching Strategies GOLD online visit their website at <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD-assessment-online.cfm>. Michigan kindergarten teachers will play a critical role in helping the BAA customize the KEA for Michigan's teachers, students and families. Please visit the KEA webpage at www.michigan.gov/kea, for more information about the KEA and to sign up for the fall pilot.

6) Interim Assessment Pilot Application Window Open Through Tomorrow, Friday, August 9, 2013

The Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) re-opened the Fall 2013 Interim Assessment Pilot application window from **Monday, July 29, 2013 through Friday, August 9, 2013**. (An application to participate in the Fall 2013 Interim Assessment pilot should only be completed now if your school did not already complete an application by the initial June deadline.)

The Fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot is for grades 3-12 in science and social studies and grades K-2 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. When operational, these new interim assessments will be online. Pre-post assessments will be given at the beginning of a grade/course and end of a grade/course. The operational Michigan interim assessments may also be used as one possible measure of student growth.

Michigan educators will play a critical role in assisting the BAA in the development of the Michigan Interim Assessments at all grade levels and content areas. Schools have the opportunity to experience these new assessments during **pilot testing**, which will take place **Monday, October 28, 2013 through Friday, December 6, 2013**. (See application link below to apply.)

Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot		
Grade Levels	Content Areas	Alignment
K – 2	ELA and Mathematics	Common Core State Standards
3 – 7	Science	Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs)

3 – 8	Social Studies		Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs)
High School	<u>Science</u> Earth Science Biology Chemistry Physics	<u>Social Studies</u> US History & Geography World History & Geography Civics Economics	High School Content Expectations (HSCEs)

The chart below provides minimum technology requirements for participation in the fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment pilot:

Minimum Technology Requirements for Student Testing Devices	
Apple	Windows
MAC OS X 10.6 – 10.8	Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, Server 2003 and 2008
512 MB RAM	512 MB RAM
800 x 600 screen resolution	800 x 600 screen resolution
100 MB hard disk space	100 MB hard disk space
1 GHz processor	1 GHz processor
Neither tablets (iPad/Android) nor Chromebooks will be supported for this pilot.	

If your school did not already complete an application to participate in the **Fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment pilot**, but would like the opportunity to be a part of this important opportunity, please complete the application at <http://tinyurl.com/interimpilotapp>. Districts may have several buildings participate, but each building must register with a separate application. **Applications must be completed by tomorrow, Friday, August 9, 2013.**

For more information regarding the interim assessments, contact:

Interim Assessment Contacts		
<u>Elementary (K-5)</u> Erika Bolig 517-241-6397 bolige@michigan.gov	<u>Secondary (6-12)</u> Kim Young 517-373-0988 youngk1@michigan.gov	<u>Technology</u> Matt Ayotte 517-335-4643 ayottem@michigan.gov

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.