

Please see **FIVE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Fall 2013 MI-Access and MEAP-Access Additional Material Order (AMO) Window Opening, 2) WIDA Coordinator WebEx Invitation 3) Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium Field Tests, 4) MME Establishment Deadline, and 5) Smarter Balanced Assessment – Field Test Opportunities

1) Fall 2013 MI-Access and MEAP-Access Additional Material (AMO) Window Opening

Initial material orders for MI-Access and MEAP-Access will be arriving in districts this week. Please watch for these materials in your daily UPS deliveries and inventory them as soon as possible after receipt to ensure your order is complete and to identify what materials may need to be ordered during the AMO window. It is possible that some materials may arrive toward the end of the week or on Monday, September 30, 2013. **The AMO window is scheduled to open Monday, September 30, 2013** (see below). Reminder: AMOs may **only** be entered by a District Administrator level user.

Please note: The AMO window is scheduled to open on Monday, September 30, 2013 as follows:

- **MEAP-Access: Monday, September 30, 2013 at 8 a.m.**
- **MI-Access: Monday, September 30, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.**

2) WIDA Coordinators: Invitation to Participate in a 'How to Administer the W-APT and Use the New BAA Secure Site' WebEx

The Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) would like to extend an invitation to WIDA Coordinators to participate in a '**How to Administer the W-APT and Use the New BAA Secure Site**' WebEx. The purpose of this WebEx is to instruct Michigan's educators on how to administer the new WIDA W-APT assessment and to teach the basics on how to use the new BAA Secure Site. The W-APT is the screening tool used to aid districts in identifying students who are non-native English speakers who may also be in need of English learner (EL) services.

The WebEx will be divided into *four duplicate sessions*:

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

- Session 1: 9:00–11:00 a.m.
- Session 2: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 3, 2013

- Session 1: 9:00–11:00 a.m.
- Session 2: 1:00–3:00 p.m.

To confirm your participation, we are requesting that you respond via email to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezcr@michigan.gov. Please identify which session you would like to take part in and, upon receipt of your selection, instructions will be sent on how to gain access to the WebEx. Space is limited so be sure to confirm by **Monday, September 30, 2013**.

3) Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium Field Tests

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium is planning three field tests on the new alternate assessment for students with severe cognitive disabilities from January through June 2014. We need your help to ensure that Michigan students and teachers are major players in providing feedback on the DLM assessment system.

Why participate?

Districts are strongly encouraged to participate in all three field tests because of the immense value participation provides to individual students, educators, and the DLM Assessment System. ALL districts that volunteer will be included.

- Students and teachers who participate will become familiar with DLM and the computer-based test delivery system and, therefore, will have an advantage if/when the assessments become operational in 2014-15.
- Teachers who participate will have an opportunity to give feedback after every field test. This feedback will help DLM improve the quality of the assessment items and improve the computer delivery engine before the assessments become operational.
- The higher the field test participation rate, the greater the number of test items that will be reviewed, which will increase the pool of operational test items.
- The greater the number of students participating in multiple field tests, the more DLM will learn about how students move through the learning maps behind the assessment system.

When are the field tests?

The three field test windows are:

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

What content will be tested?

Field tests will include English language arts and mathematics items. During each field test, a student will answer approximately 15 items in each subject area.

Which students can participate?

Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 or high school who currently participate in one of the MI-Access assessments are eligible for inclusion.

How do districts sign up for the field tests?

Please reply to the survey by Monday, October 14, 2013 using this link:

https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BVeB6p9r9zXYR.

A PDF with the survey questions that allows you to preview all survey questions is available at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_28463-18034--,00.html

Questions regarding the DLM Field Tests may be directed to Dr. Joanne Winkelman, at winkelmanj@michigan.gov or 517-335-0457.

4) MME Establishment Deadline is Friday, October 4, 2013

The deadline for schools to provide online establishment information to ACT for the Spring 2014 MME is **Friday, October 4, 2013**. All Test Supervisors, Back-up Test Supervisors, and Test Accommodations Coordinators must complete their online establishment profiles by **Friday, October 4, 2013**. If your school is having difficulty with the establishment process, please contact ACT immediately by email at mi.mme@act.org, or by phone at 800-553-6244 ext. 2800.

5) Smarter Balanced Assessment – Field Test Opportunities

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is pleased to announce opportunities for Michigan schools to indicate their interest in participating in Smarter Balanced Field Testing, which will be occurring mid-March to early June 2014. Additional information about the Smarter Balanced Field Testing for this school year can be found under the 'What's New' section on any of the following web pages:

www.michigan.gov/meap

www.michigan.gov/mi-access

www.michigan.gov/mme

If your school is interested in participating in the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, please go to <http://www.formstack.com/forms/fieldtest-recruitment> and complete the registration information. Please submit your interest in participating in the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test by **Tuesday, October 15, 2013**. Although submitting the form does not guarantee your school(s) will be selected to participate, it does offer you an opportunity to be considered early in the selection process.

Have Other 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.