



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, your school district will administer state tests that provide important information on students' knowledge and career- and college-ready progress upon graduation. Federal and state laws require these tests. Schools and districts use these test results, among others, for school improvement initiatives that benefit all students. The data gathered from this year's state assessments and other data will help educators support students when they return to school in the fall and move forward with their education.

**Students in Grades 3-10 will participate in the following assessments:**

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3-7)
- PSAT 8/9 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 8)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 10)

**Grade 11 students will participate in the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which has three required components:**

- SAT with essay, a college entrance exam that also measures student knowledge of Michigan's English language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards
- ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment
- M-STEP science and social studies

**MI-Access, Michigan's Alternate Assessment Program**

MI-Access ([www.michigan.gov/mi-access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access)) is Michigan's alternate assessment system for grades 3-8 and 11. It is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations (known as Essential Elements) and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirements that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

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### **Additional Information**

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will help support your child's experience. State assessment results do not affect your student's grades in any way.

On average, students spend no more than three hours on M-STEP ELA and mathematics tests. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 spend an additional two and one-half hours on science and social studies testing.

While we support parents in making choices for their children, no formal process exists at the state level to opt-out of summative assessments required under state and federal law. If you wish for your child not to participate, please discuss with your local school administrator. Students who are not assessed will count against their school's required 95 percent participation rate and will create an incomplete picture of their school's performance.

Assessment results help target support and resources to students and schools that need them most. The test results also inform future state education policies and programs.

You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa). A good place to start is with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at [www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "R".

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent