
Michigan PSAT 8/9 Accommodations and English Learner Supports for Eighth Grade

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will provide the digital PSAT™ 8/9 assessment to eligible eighth graders as a state accountability test.

For digital tests to be configured with students' approved accommodations, educators must request accommodations for the Michigan-provided PSAT 8/9 through the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Online system.

Educators can go to collegeboard.org/ssdonline and submit either state-allowed or College Board-approved requests for Spring testing. In either case, if accommodations were submitted and approved for fall testing and are still appropriate for the student, then requests for the same accommodations do not need to be made for spring.

- **State-Allowed:** State-allowed accommodations (SAAs) are state-specific accommodations defined by MDE that align to a student's current eighth grade IEP or 504 plan for the Michigan-provided test.
 - In previous years, it was recommended that requests for SAAs be submitted for most eighth graders. With the transition to digital testing, SAAs may still be used if required to meet student needs, but educators are encouraged to request College Board-approved accommodations, when applicable.
- **College Board-approved:** College Board-approved accommodations provide an accommodation for the Spring test according to a student's current eighth grade IEP or 504 plan and requires College Board approval. Approved requests carry forward to future years' assessments. **Please note that choosing this option does not change the IEP team's responsibility to review student needs and necessary accommodations at each annual review.**

State-Allowed vs. College Board-approved Accommodations

	State-Allowed Accommodation	College Board–Approved Accommodation
When to submit requests	Early January through mid-February.*	Anytime. However, the spring PSAT 8/9 deadline is mid-February.
Approval	All requests are automatically approved.	Most requests are approved within a few days.
Required documentation	None.	Documentation is needed for some requests. Approval decisions can take up to 7 weeks.
Use in future administrations	Only applicable for the administration the accommodation is requested for.	Student remains approved for the same accommodations through high school.

*Please refer to michigan.gov/psat for specific deadlines.

How Accommodations Impact 8th Graders Transitioning to 9th Grade

When educators choose either state-allowed or College Board-approved requests for eighth graders, they should consider how those requests will affect students when they reach ninth grade.

- **State-allowed accommodations from eighth to ninth grade:** If SAAs were used in eighth grade, educators must resubmit accommodations requests for students in ninth grade based on their current IEPs and 504 plans. New requests can be state-allowed or College Board-approved.
- **College Board-approved accommodations from eighth to ninth grade:** If students' school codes change in ninth grade, educators must go to collegeboard.org/ssd and transfer students to the new school. If students' accommodations change in ninth grade, educators must submit change requests. Otherwise, educators can simply confirm students' accommodations are still accurate and prepare to test them in the current school year.

English Learner Supports

English learners (EL) will be able to utilize EL supports for the Michigan-provided assessments. These supports include the use of an approved word-to-word bilingual dictionary, translated test directions, and time and one-half (+50%) extended time. Students can use one or any of these supports in combination.

Use of an approved word-to-word bilingual dictionary:

- The use of a dictionary does NOT require approval by the College Board.
- The approved list is available at <https://michigan.gov/psat>.

Use of translated test directions:

- Translated test directions will be available in PDF format. Schools must print the directions for students; no printed test directions will be provided.
- Use of translated test directions does NOT require approval by the College Board.
- Translations will be available in February to print.

Use of time and one-half (+50%) extended time:

- Students will receive time and one-half on each section of the PSAT 8/9. Students must sit for the entire time allotted and cannot go ahead in the test, even if they are the only one testing.
- Although not an accommodation, EL students requiring time and one-half will need to be identified in SSD Online to ensure the digital test is correctly configured to include the extended time support. Students will be automatically approved, and no supporting documentation is required.
- EL students using time and one-half can be tested with other students with accommodations testing with the same timing.

Note: EL students who have been in U.S. schools for 12 months or less may utilize a one-time exemption from the Reading and Writing section on the PSAT.

Have Questions?

Contact the Michigan field team:

- Ted Gardella: tgardella@collegeboard.org
- Kari Anama: kanama@collegeboard.org