



SPOTLIGHT

NEWS

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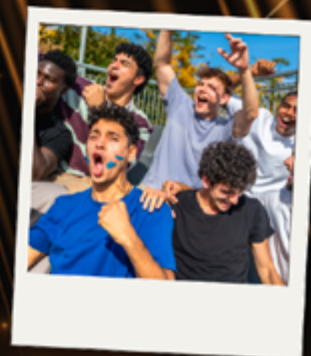
Spotlight your School



Innovative Programs



Student/Staff
Achievements



Points of Pride

Share Your School or District's Story with Spotlight! Help us shine a Spotlight on the great work happening in schools and districts across Michigan. We're looking for photos that **highlight points of pride, innovative or unique programs, and student or staff achievements.**



Enjoying this newsletter?

Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Spotlight.

How to submit your photo:

- Make sure you have permission to share the photo (check your school/district policy)
- Include a short caption (up to 250 characters)
- Add a photo credit (or we'll credit your school or district)
- Email everything to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov.

Send us your photo today and help us celebrate the vibrant life and learning of Michigan schools!



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NEWS INFO

Pre-Identification and Material Orders – SAT, PSAT, Win Work Readiness, M-STEP, and MI-Access






REMINDERS: Districts and schools are to complete their Pre-Identification (Pre-ID) Student report in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) for the Spring 2026 SAT, PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, WIN Work Readiness, M-STEP, and MI-Access administrations.



Schools/districts will receive M-STEP, WIN Work Readiness, and MI-Access paper/pencil assessment materials and printed barcode labels based on the students who are pre-identified in the Secure Site by **5:00 p.m., February 13, 2026.**

Refer to the [Spotlight newsletter - December 4, 2025, issue](https://bit.ly/4qC03Sa) (https://bit.ly/4qC03Sa) to ensure your school/district has accurate counts, to get detailed instructions on how to pre-identify students, and for other important information.

Icon Key

-  Now Available
-  Reminder
-  Deadline
-  Survey
-  Thank You

NEWS INFO

Now Open: Request Window for Alternate INSIGHT Availability for M-STEP and MI-Access

The window for Alternate INSIGHT Availability requests is now open. Schools that need access to the M-STEP and MI-Access online testing engine INSIGHT outside of the standard hours for testing (7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days) can now submit their requests through the close of business on March 12, 2026.



To request alternate testing hours, assessment coordinators must complete the [Alternate INSIGHT Availability Request Form](https://forms.office.com/g/53vDaenS8y) (https://forms.office.com/g/53vDaenS8y) for each individual testing location. The form is also available on the [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep) and [MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) under the **What's New** and **Current Assessment Administration** sections.

INSIGHT availability will be scheduled based on the entity information provided in each request. Coordinators are encouraged to submit their forms as early as possible.

Updated 2025-26 Assessment Integrity Guide Released

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has released the online 2025-26 Assessment Integrity Guide (AIG). It can be viewed online through this link: [2025-26 AIG](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Integrity-and-Security/Assessment_Integrity_Guide.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Integrity-and-Security/Assessment_Integrity_Guide.pdf).



NEWS INFO

Michigan Virtual 2025-26 Assessment Security Modules Are Now Available

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce that this year's 2025-26 Assessment Security Training is now available online through the [Michigan Virtual Professional Learning Portal](https://plp.michiganvirtual.org/) (<https://plp.michiganvirtual.org/>). The training allows users to participate in the modules that pertain to their role as Assessment Coordinator and/or Test Administrator. A refresher course is also available for participants who completed the 2024-25 full course.

About the Assessment Security Training course

- **Module 1: An Introduction to Assessment Integrity and Security** – covers the importance of test security and planning for test administration
- **Module 2: Planning for Test Administration** – covers the steps coordinators/administrators need to take before testing begins, such as staff training and preparing the testing environment
- **Module 3: Test Administration** – covers security concerns and considerations during testing
- **Module 4: After-Test Administration and OEAA Monitoring** – covers the responsibilities of maintaining assessment security after testing; specific topics discussed are materials return, incident reporting, and OEAA monitoring efforts

Each module is designed to be completed in 10-15 minutes. Participants who complete all four modules and demonstrate their knowledge on the short quizzes at the end of each module will print a Certificate of Completion at the end of the training, to be kept on file within the district or school building.

Annual security training is a requirement for

individuals who will take part in the administration of state assessments; these include Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark, MI-Access, M-STEP, PSAT 8/9 & 10, SAT with Essay, WIDA ACCESS, WIDA Alternate ACCESS, and WIN Work Readiness Assessments.

Specifically, District and Building Assessment Coordinators are required to take the Assessment Security Training course, and are also required to read the [Assessment Integrity Guide \(AIG\)](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Web-sites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Integrity-and-Security/Assessment_Integrity_Guide.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Web-sites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Integrity-and-Security/Assessment_Integrity_Guide.pdf).

Test Administrators and Proctors must take the course and/or read the Security for Test Administrators document related to the assessment being administered; these documents are found in the [AIG](#). District and Building Coordinators must determine which training method is best for their testing staff and are responsible for ensuring that the training is delivered.

Other staff with access to secure materials can satisfy the assessment security training requirement by reading the Keeping Assessment Materials Secure instructions found in Appendix E of the [AIG](#).

NEWS INFO

Off-Site Assessments Requests for 2025-26 School Year

Schools that will have students testing off-site – that is, state assessments will be administered in a location(s) other than the school building the students are attending, or the testing students are receiving virtual classroom education – must submit an Off-site Test Administration Request. (Note: If the off-site testing location is in a district-owned building, then an off-site request is not required.) Requests can be submitted for a whole school, an entire grade, or for just a few students. This includes virtual and online, homebound, hospitalized, and suspended students.

Schools or districts planning to administer these assessments at off-site locations must complete Off-Site Test Administration Requests through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure):

- MI-Access Functional Independence/Supported Independence/Participation (FI/SI/P)
- M-STEP
- WIDA ACCESS
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS
- WIDA Screener
- WIN Work Readiness

For more information and help with submitting off-site requests through the Secure Site, see the help document [OEAA Secure Site Off-site Test Administration](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Secure-Site-Training/OffSiteTestDirections.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Secure-Site-Training/OffSiteTestDirections.pdf>).

Schools or districts planning to administer these College Board assessments at off-site locations must submit off-site testing requests through the [College Board/MDE Spring 2026 Off-site Testing Request Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPodipAL-9Ms-gObqd4XEIUgR_kbtsqkMoBNd-ps3za2cRryQ/viewform) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPodipAL-9Ms-gObqd4XEIUgR_kbtsqkMoBNd-ps3za2cRryQ/viewform):

Off-Site Test Administration Request Window for Building/Grade Level and Individual Students		
Assessment	Opens	Closes
WIDA Screener	July 1, 2025	June 30, 2026
WIDA Access and WIDA Alternate ACCESS	December 10, 2025	April 2, 2026
CB Suite of Assessments	November 3, 2025	March 2, 2026
M-STEP Paper/Pencil Grades 3 - 8, 11 (all subjects)	January 5, 2026	April 30, 2026
WIN Work Readiness Assessments	January 5, 2026	April 30, 2026
M-STEP Online Grades 3 - 8, 11	January 5, 2026	May 14, 2026
MI-Access FI/SI/P	January 5, 2026	May 21, 2026

NEWS INFO

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Student-Level Reports Available

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (ELMBA) student-level reports for the Winter 2026 administration of the ELMBA are available in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site. The reports are available within 48 hours after a student completes all portions of a content area test, and can be accessed through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

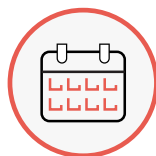
How to Access Reports:

1. Visit the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure)
2. Select **Reports > Dynamic Score Reports**
3. Need help? Refer to the [Dynamic Score Reporting User Guide](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/General/Dynamic-Score-Reporting-Site-User-Guide.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/General/Dynamic-Score-Reporting-Site-User-Guide.pdf>).

Report Types Include:

- **Domain Analysis Report** – Lists selected students with scale scores and domain performance by content area
- **Individual Student Report (ISR)** – Provides detailed student-level performance summaries by content area
- **Student Roster Report** – Displays overall scores, standard errors, and domain subtotals by content area
- **Student Trend Report** – Shows up to three years of scale score trends by content area

Reminder: The Winter 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments testing window runs through February 6, 2026.



Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Winter 2026 Test Windows Now Open

The Winter 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments testing window is now open and will remain open through **February 6, 2026**. Students in grades K-2 who tested in Fall 2025 have been automatically pre-identified to the Winter 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA).



1. Students who tested in Fall 2025 and will test in Winter 2026 are pre-identified and will be pulled into the DRC INSIGHT Portal to be assigned to test sessions.
2. No action is necessary for students who tested in the Fall 2025 administration but will not test in the Winter 2026 administration. While such students will appear in the DRC INSIGHT Portal because they were automatically pre-identified for Winter 2026 testing, there is no requirement for the school to assign them to test sessions in the DRC INSIGHT Portal.
 - a. **Note:** Some schools choose to create a “Not Testing” test session in the INSIGHT portal and move their not-testing students into it, so they are not included in the school’s test sessions.
 - b. If the school is not testing any students for Winter 2026 Early Literacy Benchmark assessments, no action is necessary.
3. Students who did not test in the Fall 2025 administration but will be testing in this winter’s administration must be pre-identified by the school in the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) for testing in Winter 2026.

NEWS INFO

The [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Test Administration Manual](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Early_Literacy_and_Mathematics_TAM_663326_7.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Early_Literacy_and_Mathematics_TAM_663326_7.pdf) and Online Test Directions can be found on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](https://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (<https://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath>) under the **Current Assessment Administration** section.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Materials Arrive in Districts on January 22

Districts can expect to receive their WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS test materials on Thursday, January 22, 2026 (make sure staff are available to receive and sign for the materials). The Additional Materials Ordering window opens on this date as well, in [WIDA AMS](https://www.drccdirect.com/all/eca-portal-v2-ui/#/login/WIDA) (<https://www.drccdirect.com/all/eca-portal-v2-ui/#/login/WIDA>).

The initial test materials will be shipped to the address that is listed in WIDA AMS under **Materials > Material Ordering**. Locate and verify your address by selecting the correct administration and district filter, then clicking on **Show Materials**. The address will be at the bottom of the **Order Materials** sub-tab.

COLLEGE BOARD INFO

Spring SAT Suite Pre-ID Window

The Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) student-Pre-Identification (Pre-ID) window for Spring SAT Suite testing is January 5 – February 13, 2026. Students' Pre-ID is conducted in MDE's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

Pre-ID for late-arriving students and for other unforeseen changes in student enrollment can be completed from February 16 to April 27 for standard online testers, and from February 16 to April 23 for paper/pencil testers, as well as for any online testers approved for multi-day testing.

College Board will pull Pre-ID data daily from the OEAA Secure Site beginning on February 18 through April 28 for digital testers, and from February 18 through April 24 for paper/pencil testers.

Student registrations will appear in College Board's State Data Management System (SDMS) one business day after any change in OEAA registration data, and in the Test Day Toolkit (TDTK) after two business days.

Access to College Board's State Data Management System and Test Day Toolkit

- **Week of February 2:** School test coordinators will receive access to TDTK
- **February 19:** District test coordinators, school test coordinators, and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinators will gain access to SDMS.

SDMS and TDTK are systems used by College Board to enroll students based on OEAA-provided pre-identification data in spring school day testing and to provide access to student tests in Bluebook.

College Board receives Pre-ID data from the OEAA Secure Site to register students in the SDMS. Students registered in SDMS auto-populate in TDTK. Once students are populated in TDTK, student test tickets will be available in the TDTK Roster that will be available beginning on February 20, 2026. Tests are generated in Bluebook.

Data from SDMS also integrates with accommodations from SSD Online. Approved accommodations in SSD Online are viewable in the student record in SDMS.

Test staff will be notified via email about their access to each application. Educators can also access these systems from their College Board educator account.

Questions about the College Board Assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

Call: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)

Email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

COLLEGE BOARD INFO

Introducing Cassy Tefft de Muñoz, Senior Director of K-12 and Michigan State Lead for College Board

The College Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Cassy Tefft de Muñoz, Senior Director of K-12 and Michigan state lead! An education and impact leader with more than 15 years of experience advancing systemic change across college access, workforce development, and cross-sector partnerships, Cassy joins the College Board as a collaborative partner to districts and educators across the state, supporting efforts to strengthen student outcomes and postsecondary readiness for Michigan students.

Cassy has been a lifelong champion of education, with a career spanning international education, equity-centered support for students from diverse backgrounds, and community-based outreach programming.

Most recently, she served as Executive Director of the Center for Educational Outreach at Michigan Technological University, where she led large-scale initiatives serving more than 25,000 students and families annually, strengthened state-wide education-to-career pathways, and cultivated deep collaborations with K-12 partners. A former first-generation college student, Cassy is deeply committed to ensuring every student has access to clear, supported pathways to postsecondary success.

Connect with Cassy to review data and leverage educator resources associated with the SAT Suite of Assessments, as well as to discuss Advanced Placement courses. Cassy is also available to help schools and districts learn more about how the College Board can partner with your school to create opportunities for students. Her email is: ctefft-demunoz@collegeboard.org.



Cassy Tefft de Muñoz

Questions about the College Board Assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

Call: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)

Email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

COLLEGE BOARD INFO

College Board Key Dates

Item	Date(s)	Description
Services for Students with Disabilities and Accommodations Webinar	Wednesday, January 14, 2026 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Register here (https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fU1x5OF2REmseEBdTbuR-rQ#/registration)
Technical Readiness Webinar	Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Register here (https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RXCmp36sQRyIFqY18OP-Slw#/registration)
Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Accommodations Request Deadline	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>Deadline to submit all known accommodations in SSD Online, to ensure they are processed and available well in advance of testing and that new students/accommodations identified after the deadline can be prioritized.</p> <p>This deadline includes State Allowed Accommodations (SAAs). However, SAAs, while permitted by the Michigan Department of Education, are not considered approved accommodations by College Board. For that reason, scores obtained with SAAs are not college-reportable.</p>
Student Rosters Available in the State Data Management System (SDMS) and Test Day Toolkit	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Schools can confirm the accuracy of their student roster in SDMS and begin to prepare rooms in Test Day Toolkit, assigning students and staff to those rooms, as well as access test ticket information to facilitate student readiness checks and practice tests.
School Test Coordinator Webinar, Part 2	Wednesday, March 4, 2026 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Register here (https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bRg7vVcGRqGBFAvynIGL-WQ#/registration)

College Board Past Webinar Materials

The recording and presentation decks from the following webinars may be accessed using the links below:

- District Test Coordinator Webinar
[recording](#) | [deck](#)
- Services for Students with Disabilities Training for the Visually Impaired
[recording](#) | [deck](#)
- School Test Coordinator Webinar Part 1
[recording](#) | [deck](#)
- Comparing and Contrasting Text-to-Speech & Screen reader Accommodations
[recording](#) | [deck](#)

Questions about the College Board Assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

Call: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)

Email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

COLLEGE BOARD INFO

Services for Students with Disabilities Online Access and Accommodations Deadline

Please remember to ensure all known accommodations are accurate in the SSD Online by **February 18, 2026**. SSD Coordinators are typically responsible for ensuring accommodations are accurate in SSD Online; however, they may be assisted by other appropriate personnel at their school. For any school personnel supporting this to have access to SSD Online, they must complete the [SSD Online Access form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/eb56b797c0e-64cf392fbeb5d28edee4b) (https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/eb56b797c0e-64cf392fbeb5d28edee4b)



For more details on these activities, please see the section “[College Board Past Webinars Materials](#)” article on the previous page of this Spotlight regarding prior SSD sessions, as well as the upcoming [Services for Students with Disabilities and Accommodations Webinar](https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fU1x5OF2REmseEBdTbuR-rQ#/registration) (https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fU1x5OF2REmseEBdTbuR-rQ#/registration) on **January 14, 2026**.

Off-Site Testing Request Form

If any students enrolled in your institution need to test at a location other than a school building (such as a conference center, library, district office), please submit an [Off-site Testing Form](https://www.sat.org/offsiterequest) (https://www.sat.org/offsiterequest) by **March 2, 2026**.



Questions about the College Board Assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

Call: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)

Email: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

WIN LEARNING INFO

Need assistance with WIN Learning?

Email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Call: 877-560-8378

Select Option 2, then Option 3

WIN Work Readiness Accommodations Training Video

A new [WIN Work Readiness Assessments Accommodations training video](https://winlearning.wistia.com/medias/pceod03meh) (<https://winlearning.wistia.com/medias/pceod03meh>) is now available on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (<http://www.michigan.gov/mme>) and the [WIN Michigan Resource Center](https://www.winresourcecenter.com/Partnerships/mde) (<https://www.winresourcecenter.com/Partnerships/mde>).



The video is a recording of the WIN office hours session that discussed standard tools and accommodations for the assessments.

The training walks through the basic assessment accommodations, including American Sign Language, Extended Time, and Spanish translations, and how to activate them in the WIN online testing portal. The video also shows the tools that are available to all students, including a calculator, formula sheet, sticky notes, and several other functions that assist students while they complete the assessments.

Also available is the presentation used in the video. The presentation can be accessed [here](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/WIN-OFFICE-HOURS-NOV-19.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/WIN-OFFICE-HOURS-NOV-19.pdf>).

A complete [WIN Work Readiness Assessments training schedule](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/WIN-Webinar-Schedule-and-Links.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/WIN-Webinar-Schedule-and-Links.pdf>) is posted online.

WIN Google Calendar of Important Dates Now Available

The WIN Google Calendar is now available on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme). The [WIN Work Readiness Important Dates PDF](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/WIN-Work-Readiness-Assessment-List-of-Important-Dates.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/WIN-Work-Readiness-Assessment-List-of-Important-Dates.pdf>) and [Excel Date file](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/Spring2026_ImportantDates.xlsx) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/Spring2026_ImportantDates.xlsx) are also available.



WIN LEARNING INFO

Need assistance with WIN Learning?

Email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Call: 877-560-8378

Select Option 2, then Option 3

Correction to Test Administration Training Times

An error was identified on the posted training times for the WIN Work Readiness Test Administration Trainings on January 13, February 24, and February 25. Each of these trainings will be two hours – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – not one hour as previously posted.

This has been corrected on the [WIN Work Readiness List of Important Dates PDF](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendar/WIN-Work-Readiness-Assessment-List-of-Important-Dates.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendar/WIN-Work-Readiness-Assessment-List-of-Important-Dates.pdf>) and [Excel Date Sheet](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendar/Spring2026_ImportantDates.xlsx) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendar/Spring2026_ImportantDates.xlsx):

Start	End	Task/Activity	Change	Date of Change
Tuesday, January 13, 2026	Tuesday, January 13, 2026	WIN Work Readiness Test Administration Training for Test Coordinators - Online Testing (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)	Corrected training time	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	Tuesday, February 24, 2026	WIN Work Readiness Test Administration Training for Test Coordinators - Online Testing (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) (repeated)	Corrected training time	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Wednesday, February 25, 2026	WIN Work Readiness Test Administration Training for Test Coordinators - Paper-based Testing (10:00- a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)	Corrected training time	Thursday, January 8, 2026

TRAINING & CONFERENCES

2026 Michigan School Testing Conference

February 10–12, 2026 | Ann Arbor Sheraton Hotel

The Michigan School Testing Conference (MSTC) returns in person this February—bringing together assessment and education professionals from across the state for three days of learning, connection, and preparation.

Whether you support assessment at the classroom, district, intermediate school district, or state level, MSTC 2026 is your opportunity to dig into current practices, sharpen your expertise, and get ready for the spring assessment season with confidence.

What to Expect

Tuesday, February 10 | Preconference Workshops 9:00 a.m.–Noon & 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Kick off the conference with eight interactive workshops designed for deep learning and hands-on engagement:

- Six half-day workshops
- Two full-day workshops

These sessions offer extended time to explore tools, practices, and challenges that matter most to educators and assessment leaders right now.

Wednesday–Thursday, February 11–12

Main Conference

Join colleagues for 37 clinic sessions and three high-impact keynote presentations that blend policy, practice, and perspective:

- **Dr. Carla Evans**, Associate Director, National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment
Wednesday Morning Keynote
- **Andy Middlestead**, Director, Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability
Wednesday Plated Lunch Keynote
- **Dr. Steve Sireci**, Distinguished University Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Thursday Morning Keynote

Why Attend MSTC 2026?

Participants will:

- stay current on Michigan Department of Education policies, requirements, and updates
- strengthen understanding of high-quality, equitable assessment practices
- learn practical strategies to support instructional improvement and student learning
- prepare thoughtfully and effectively for spring state assessments

Registration & Hotel Information

- **Register now and view full conference details:**

[Register for MSTC 2026](https://gomasa.org/events/2026-michigan-school-testing-conference/1770710400/1770912000/) (https://gomasa.org/events/2026-michigan-school-testing-conference/1770710400/1770912000/)

- **Special conference hotel rate available:**

Reserve your room at the [Ann Arbor Sheraton Hotel](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1757516831607&key=GRP&app=resvlink) (https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1757516831607&key=GRP&app=resvlink) while rooms last

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 2026

Start Date	Assessment/Event	End Date
Ongoing	2025-26 NexSys Benchmark Reporting & Funding — Application window open	Friday, January 30, 2026
Ongoing	Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments — Winter Test Administration Window	Friday, February 6, 2026
Ongoing	M-STEP — Initial Material Order Window by 5:00 p.m. (paper/pencil testing)	Friday, February 13, 2026
Ongoing	M-STEP, WIN Work Readiness — Pre-identification of students for preprinted barcode labels by 5:00 p.m. (paper/pencil testing)	Friday, February 13, 2026
Ongoing	MI-Access — Pre-identification of students for preprinted barcode labels by 5:00 p.m. (paper/pencil testing) Expressing Ideas only	Friday, February 13, 2026
Ongoing	SAT, PSAT-Related — Pre-identification of students by 5:00 p.m.	Friday, February 13, 2026
Ongoing	M-STEP, MI-Access — Request alternate online testing engine access outside of the standard testing hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days. Alternate INSIGHT Availability Request Form (https://forms.office.com/g/53vDaenS8y)	Thursday, March 12, 2026
Ongoing	WIDA ACCESS — WIDA AMS Test Setup Available	Friday, April 3, 2026
Ongoing	SAT, PSAT-Related — Pre-identification of late-arriving students - paper/pencil and 2-day accommodation testing by 11:59 p.m.	Friday, April 24, 2026
Ongoing	WIN Work Readiness — Pre-identification of students	Thursday, April 30, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 2026 (continued)

Start Date	Assessment/Event	End Date
Ongoing	M-STEP — Pre-identification of students - online	Thursday, May 14, 2026
Ongoing	MI-Access — Pre-identification of students. (online and paper/pencil testing)	Thursday, May 21, 2026
Thursday, January 22, 2026	WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS — Initial materials orders arrive in districts	Monday, January 26, 2026
Thursday, January 22, 2026	WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS — Additional Material Order window open in WIDA AMS	Friday, March 27, 2026
Monday, January 26, 2026	WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS — Test Window Open	Friday, April 3, 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

Start Date	Assessment/Event	End Date
Monday, February 16, 2026	SAT, PSAT-related — Pre-identification of late-arriving students - online testing by 11:59 p.m.	Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Monday, February 16, 2026	M-STEP, WIN Work Readiness — Pre-identification of students for local printing of barcode labels by 5:00 p.m.	Friday, May 1, 2026
Monday, February 16, 2026	MI-Access — Pre-identification of students for local printing of barcode labels by 5:00 p.m. Expressing Ideas only	Thursday, May 21, 2026
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	SAT, PSAT-related — Services for Students with Disabilities Accommodations Request Deadline	Wednesday, February 18, 2026

REMINDERS

NexSys Benchmark Reporting and Funding Application is Now Open

The 2025-26 NexSys Benchmark Reporting and Funding application is now available. The deadline for application submission is **Friday, January 30, 2026**.



The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requests that all districts complete the NexSys application to ensure that a complete legislatively required benchmark report can be produced. Districts seeking funding must use the NexSys application to report on benchmark assessments and to apply for funding.

The current application is similar to last year's application with one major change: applicants are to complete preliminary budgets with estimated allocations. Successful applicants will be asked to modify and finalize their budgets with awarded amounts.

For applicants who are new to NexSys, information on how to get access is on the [NexSys web page](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/financial-management/grants/nexsys) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/financial-management/grants/nexsys>) or by contacting MDE-NexSys-Applications@Michigan.gov.

Applicants who have questions about completing the NexSys application are asked to refer to the step-by-step instructions in the [Application Job Aid](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/Benchmark-App-Job-Aid-v2.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/Benchmark-App-Job-Aid-v2.pdf>).

Where to find additional information

For more information, the following resources are available:

- [Benchmark Assessment web page](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/benchmark-assessments) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/benchmark-assessments>)
- [2025-26 Benchmark Assessments Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions 2025-26](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/BenchmarkAssessments-Fact-Sheet-and-FAQ.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/BenchmarkAssessments-Fact-Sheet-and-FAQ.pdf>)
- [NexSys Guide to completing a Benchmark Assessment Reporting and Funding Application](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/Benchmark-App-Job-Aid-v2.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Benchmark-Assessments/Benchmark-App-Job-Aid-v2.pdf>)
- [NexSys web page](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/financial-management/grants/nexsys) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/financial-management/grants/nexsys>)

If you have other types of questions, please reach out to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov.

OEAA ABBREVIATIONS

A rotating list of OEAA abbreviations frequently used in Spotlight

Acronym	Name	Acronym	Name
AIG	Assessment Integrity Guide	SSD	Services for Students with Disabilities
MSTC	Michigan School Testing Conference	TDTK	Test Day Tool Kit
SDMS	Student Data Management System		

OEAA PHONE TREE OPTIONS

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues, **call 877-560-8378** (select the appropriate option):

Option 1 - For inquiries related to state assessment policy; the OEAA Secure Site; administration of the M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics; and Accountability Reporting

Option 2 - For inquiries related to the SAT, PSAT, or WIN Work Readiness testing:

Option 1 - eligibility to test and the OEAA Secure Site

Option 2 - administration of the College Board assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

Option 3 - administration of the WIN Work Readiness skills test

Option 3 - For inquiries related to WIDA, the English Language Learner assessment; Call 866-276-7735 for assistance with the WIDA Screener and the WIDA Secure Portal

Option 4 - For all other calls

Option 5 - To report known unethical testing practices by a school on any state assessment

Option 6 - To repeat these options



Questions or Comments?

Contact MDE at:

Mail: 608 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48915

Assessment Questions: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Accountability Questions: mde-accountability@michigan.gov

Phone Assistance: 877-560-8378

Website: www.michigan.gov/oeaa