



SPOTLIGHT

NEWS

COLLEGE
BOARDWIN
LEARNINGASSESSMENT
LITERACYTRAINING &
CONFERENCESIMPORTANT
DATES

REMINDERS

CONTACT
US

Honoring Dr. Michael F. Rice on his retirement as Michigan's State Superintendent, celebrating his unwavering dedication to students and his lifelong commitment to their growth and achievement.



Enjoying this newsletter?
Click [here](#) to subscribe to the
Spotlight.

Show Off Your Fall Festivities!

Homecoming, spirit week, pumpkin decorating—fall is full of moments worth celebrating, and we want to feature yours in the Spotlight newsletter!

To submit your photo(s):

1. Ensure you have permission to share (check your school/district's policy)
2. Add a short caption (max 200 characters)
3. Include a photo credit (or we'll credit your school or district)
4. Email everything to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Let's capture the spirit of the season—send us your photo today and help us celebrate the vibrant life of Michigan schools!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEWS INFO.....	2
COLLEGE BOARD INFO.....	5
WIN LEARNING INFO.....	6
TRAINING & CONFERENCES.....	9
IMPORTANT DATES.....	11
REMINDERS	12
OEAA ABBREVIATIONS.....	13
OEAA PHONE TREE OPTIONS	13

Icon Key

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

NEWS INFO

SAT and PSAT-related Lists of Important Dates PDF Now Available

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability has released the Spring 2026 SAT® with Essay and PSAT-related Important Dates documents, available now on the [Assessment Calendars web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-assessmentcalendar) (www.michigan.gov/mde-assessmentcalendar).



- **[SAT Important Dates PDF](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/SAT_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf)**
(https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/SAT_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf)
- **[PSAT-related Assessments Important Dates PDF](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/PSAT_for_grades_9_and_10_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf)**
(https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/PSAT_for_grades_9_and_10_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf)

These lists include key test administration dates and tasks to be completed before, during, and after the 2026 SAT and PSAT-related assessments.

Lists of important dates in other formats (Google Calendar, Excel Spreadsheet) and for other assessment programs will be available soon. Watch the Spotlight for details.

NEWS INFO

IMPORTANT: Security on Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability Secure Site and Vendor Assessment Sites

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site and vendor assessment sites are used for various functions in state assessments. These sites contain student data that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Districts and schools manage access to their data on the OEAA Secure Site and vendor assessment sites through their Secure Site administrators.

It is important for users of state assessment sites that contain protected student data to remember the rules listed below to ensure they are complying with FERPA and for the protection of the data.

1. Only users who require access to the sites to complete jobs related to state assessments are to have access.
2. If a district-level or school administrator-level user receives a request for access from an unknown person, the administrator is to make inquiries to verify the applicant's need for access.
3. A staff member is to be given the lowest-level access they need to complete their duties related to state assessments.
- 4. A user should never be asked for their login and password by another person, no matter the reason.**
5. A user is to never give out their login and password.
6. Anyone receiving access to the sites is to be familiar with FERPA and must stay in compliance with the act's requirements.
7. Hard-copy reports or pages printed from the sites that contain student data are to be handled securely (not in plain view).

8. The sites are not for use by parents or students. They are only to be used by district and school staff who need to access them for their job responsibilities related to state assessments
9. District/school administrator-level users are to review who has access to the sites on a regular basis and promptly remove access for users who no longer need it.

District/school administrator-level users are responsible for ensuring that all users of the OEAA Secure Site and vendor sites are aware of FERPA regulations and are following them to ensure the security of protected student data.

If the OEAA learns a user is not complying with FERPA guidelines, the OEAA will disable that user's access, and their duties will have to be reassigned to another district or school user.

NEWS INFO

Accessing Previous WIDA Test Scores

All WIDA assessment scores for students can be accessed through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](https://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) if the school has been identified as a student's Primary Educational Providing Entity (PEPE) in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). Pupil accounting staff do not need to wait until a MSDS General Collection (count day) to identify the school as the student's PEPE; they can submit a Student Record Maintenance File (SRM) at any time when an SRM window is open. More information can be found in the [Accessing New Student's State Assessment Scores document](https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/2020/01/23/Accessing_New_Students_State_Assessment_Scores_jl.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/2020/01/23/Accessing_New_Students_State_Assessment_Scores_jl.pdf) on the [Secure Site training page](https://www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) (<https://www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining>).

WIDA List of Important Dates

The [2025-26 WIDA List of Important Dates](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/WIDA_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Assessment-Calendars/WIDA_List_of_Important_Dates.pdf) is now available on the [WIDA webpage](https://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida). This resource is to be referenced and used by assessment coordinators and others who need to be aware of dates for important procedures and processes for the WIDA assessments.

WIDA ACCESS Checklists Available

The [Spring 2026 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Checklist](https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/checklists/MI-online-checklist.pdf) (<https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/checklists/MI-online-checklist.pdf>) and [WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Paper Checklist](https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/checklists/MI-paper-checklist.pdf) (<https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/checklists/MI-paper-checklist.pdf>) are now available on the [WIDA web page](https://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida). These checklists are must-have resources for EL Assessment Coordinators, Test Administrators, and Technology Coordinators. They include all the required steps to prepare for, administer, and conduct post-testing assessment activities.

COLLEGE BOARD INFO

Online Waiver Requests for SAT with Essay and PSAT-Related Assessments

Requests for waivers from online testing for the Michigan-provided SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 can be submitted by authorized users in the [OEAA Secure Site](https://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) between Monday, October 6 and Friday, November 14, 2025.

See the [Spotlight newsletter - September 25 issue](https://bit.ly/4mLo0o4) (<https://bit.ly/4mLo0o4>) for details regarding online waiver categories and guidelines for approved waivers.



Spring 2026 College Board Webinars for Michigan Educators

College Board is hosting a series of webinars to support the Michigan Department of Education's Spring 2026 administration of the SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9.

[Click here](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/SAT-Suite/College-Board-Webinars-for-MDE-Spring-Implementation.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/MME/SAT-Suite/College-Board-Webinars-for-MDE-Spring-Implementation.pdf>) for webinar details, including titles, dates, intended audience, and registration links.



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 Career Readiness System & Technology Specifications

The WIN Career Readiness System (CRS) is a secure online portal that houses all assessment activities for the WIN Work Readiness Assessments. Each Work Readiness Test Coordinator, Test Administrator, and student will have a unique username and password to log into WIN Career Readiness System.

- **Assessment Coordinators** will be provided access to the WIN CRS based on their permissions in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site.
- **Test Administrators** will be assigned access to the CRS by Assessment Coordinators
- **Students** will be pre-identified in the OEAA Secure Site and pulled into the CRS.

All staff and students involved in the WIN Work Readiness Assessments will login to the CRS. Each user type will have access, resources, and tools based on their permissions. There is no separate URL or website for Assessment Coordinators, Test Administrators, or students.

Before testing:

- **Assessment Coordinators** will manage testing group setup, accommodations settings, test session configuration, and test ticket generation in the CRS.
- **Students** will access tutorials and complete their test in the CRS.

During testing:

- **Assessment Coordinators** will log into the CRS to view student scores and progress toward completion of required assessments.
- **Test Administrators** will log into the CRS to launch and monitor students' assessments.
- **Students** will log into the CRS to access their assessments.

After testing:

- **Assessment Coordinators** can access reports and credentials through the CRS immediately after students finish testing.
- **Test Administrators** can view student scores and credentials through the CRS immediately after students finish testing.
- **Students** will be able to view their scores and National Work Readiness Credential after they have completed all three assessments (Work Ready Reading, Work Ready Math, and Work Ready Data).

continues on page 6

WIN LEARNING INFO

Need assistance with WIN Learning?

Email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Call: 877-560-8378

Select Option 2, then Option 3

Technology Requirements

The following devices and operating systems may be used for WIN testing:

- Windows 11 (desktop/laptop)
- macOS: Current and two previous versions
- Chromebooks: Minimum ChromeOS Version 103
- iPads: iPadOS 15+ with secure app installed

All devices being used for testing must have the Respondus Lockdown Browser downloaded prior to testing. WIN provides instructions for downloading and setting up the lockdown browser.

- The lockdown browser is available for Windows, macOS, and iPadOS.
- Chromebooks must use the lockdown browser extension provided by WIN.

Network Requirements

- Bandwidth: Minimum 1.5 Mbps per student; 3–5 Mbps recommended
- Whitelisted URLs: Ensure access to *.wincrsystem.com and assessment delivery servers
- WIN will provide instructions for whitelisting the necessary domains
- Disable pop-up blockers, auto-updates, and background apps during testing

Additional Requirements

- Headphones/headsets required for assessments with audio
- External keyboards recommended for tablets

Before testing begins, Technology Coordinators must complete a technology verification form to confirm that they have completed whitelisting and that the lockdown browser has been installed on every device that will be used for testing.

Contact Us

The WIN Support team is available to assist with any technical issues or questions that may arise before, during, or after testing.

Support is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours during the testing window.

To contact WIN Support, call 877-560-8378. Select Option 2, then Option 3.

WIN LEARNING INFO

Need assistance with WIN Learning?

Email: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Call: 877-560-8378

Select Option 2, then Option 3

Webinars Coming Soon: Introduction to WIN Learning and the WIN Work Readiness Assessments

Join this webinar for an introduction and overview of the WIN Learning Work Readiness Assessment; a component of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). We will provide an overview of the assessments, test window dates; resources available to you before, during, and after assessments; and a tour of a demonstration portal where you will view student data and launch assessments. We will share highlights of technology needs and the student dashboard as well.

Additional training dates for Technology Coordinators and Building Assessment Coordinators will be announced soon.

Follow the links below to register for the event. You will receive an email with the meeting link for attendance.

Note: The two events are identical; it is only necessary to attend one.

- **Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

10:00 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f086bd07-e6d6-4779-b9f1-119dc8ffe41f@95d5cf3f-705d-4453-bfce-acaba1747119>)

- **Thursday, October 16, 2025**

2:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7128b7e0-2c4e-4c2c-b0ee-f06604acb447@95d5cf3f-705d-4453-bfce-acaba1747119>)

For those unable to attend either session, a recording of the event will be added to the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme).

TRAINING & CONFERENCES



Achieving Balance in Classroom Assessment is an Essential Pathway for Districts Who Refuse to Settle

Are you serious about raising your students' M-STEP scores and unlocking their true potential? The most overlooked lever for real, lasting change isn't a new curriculum or another test—it's balanced classroom assessment.

Districts that invest in a comprehensive and balanced assessment system don't just see short-term bumps in achievement. They build a culture of learning that produces consistent gains year after year. Why? **Because balanced assessment is not a buzzword, it's an investment in brighter futures for your students.**

The Achieving Balance in the Classroom (ABCA) program invites district teams to embark on a transformative three-year professional learning journey, designed to help educators master the art and science of blending formative (assessment for learning) and summative (assessment of learning) practices. ABCA builds a cohesive, intentional approach to assessment that sparks student engagement, deepens understanding, and drives academic growth.

What makes ABCA indispensable?

- **Hands-on partnership:** Each team works directly with a Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) Learning Facilitator and the expert MAC project team.
- **Strategic design:** Districts engage in planning, continuous improvement cycles, and implementation strategies that stick.
- **Context-specific support:** Resources and guidance are tailored to your district's unique strengths and challenges.

The outcome? Classrooms where assessment informs instruction, students own their learning, and achievement soars—and where gains endure well beyond one school year.

This isn't professional development. **This is the professional learning your district cannot afford to miss.** By committing to ABCA, you're committing to future-ready students who are prepared to thrive in college, career, and life.

Registration closes October 10, 2025

Don't wait. Be part of the movement. Lead the change.

Visit the [ABCA webpage](https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/achieving-balance-in-classroom-assessment-2025-28/) (https://www.michiganassessmentconsortium.org/event/achieving-balance-in-classroom-assessment-2025-28/) for more information and to register today!

Due to the uncertainty of the state budget, we are offering an "Enroll Now, Pay Later" option; just choose that option in the registration form.



TRAINING & CONFERENCES



Michigan Educational Research Association Announces Fall 2025 Conference in Frankenmuth

Registration is now open for the Michigan Educational Research Association (MERA) Fall 2025 Conference, which will be held November 24–25, 2025 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

The annual MERA Fall Conference brings together educators, researchers, and policymakers from across the state to explore new ideas, share best practices, and promote research-driven approaches to improving teaching and learning.

Advancing Education Through Research

MERA is dedicated to promoting accurate, high-quality, appropriate, and ethical use of research, assessment, and evaluation practices in education. With the landscape of education rapidly evolving—through site-based management, alternative assessments, individualized instruction, and state and federal mandates—MERA provides a trusted forum for applying valid research to innovative changes in schools.

Conference Goals

The MERA Fall 2025 Conference will:

- provide opportunities for members to share and exchange techniques, materials, and procedures in educational research, assessment, and program evaluation
- highlight the importance of ethical and appropriate use of research and evaluation practices
- encourage collaboration to strengthen the role of data-driven decision-making in education.

Join the MERA Community

Educators and professionals interested in becoming part of MERA's statewide network are encouraged to visit [Join MERA](https://mailchi.mp/ee2f0ce25c6e/join-the-michigan-educational-research-association-mera) (https://mailchi.mp/ee2f0ce25c6e/join-the-michigan-educational-research-association-mera) to sign up for membership.

Event Details

November 24–25, 2025

Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI

[Registration now open](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ai-and-beyond-data-policy-and-practice-in-education-tickets-1669281539019)

(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ai-and-beyond-data-policy-and-practice-in-education-tickets-1669281539019)

Contact for More Information

contactmerainc@gmail.com

586-215-1402

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 2025

Start Date	Assessment/Event	End Date
Ongoing	Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment — Fall Test Administration Window	Friday, October 24, 2025
Ongoing	WIDA Screener - Cycle I — Test Administration Window	Friday, December 12, 2025
Monday, October 6, 2025	M-STEP, WIDA ACCESS, SAT with Essay, PSAT-related assessments, WIN Work Readiness, MI-Access Online Waiver Window — request waiver to administer paper/pencil testing	Friday, November 14, 2025 5:00 p.m.

REMINDERS

Nominations for 2025 WIDA Coordinator of the Year Due by October 3

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is seeking nominations to honor WIDA testing coordinators who go above and beyond in ensuring smooth test administration. [Nominations for the 2025 WIDA Coordinator of the Year](https://forms.gle/w72Nx-4NuC3kHJueJ6) (<https://forms.gle/w72Nx-4NuC3kHJueJ6>) are **due by October 3, 2025**. The winner will be announced at the Special Populations Conference in October and recognized in the Spotlight newsletter and with a letter to their superintendent.



Online Waiver Request Opens on October 6, 2025

Applies to M-STEP, SAT with Essay, PSAT-related assessments, WIN Work Readiness, WIDA ACCESS, and MI-Access

The Online Test Administration Waiver Request window will open on Monday, October 6, 2025, in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). The window will be open through November 14, 2025.



All schools are expected to administer the Spring 2026 assessments online. However, a small number of school buildings may not be able to test online. These include:

- buildings without reliable internet access
- juvenile justice facilities that do not allow students to be online
- some center-based special education programs where all students have Individualized Education Plans that require a paper/pencil administration

These schools can submit online waiver request(s) to administer the paper/pencil versions of these assessments to their students.

For more information about how to submit the waiver request, see the directions provided in the [Online Waiver Request document](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Secure-Site-Training/Online-Waiver-Request.pdf) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/OEAA/Secure-Site-Training/Online-Waiver-Request.pdf>), available on the [SecureSiteTrainingwebpage](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining) (www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining).

OEAA ABBREVIATIONS

A rotating list of OEAA abbreviations frequently used in Spotlight

Acronym	Name	Acronym	Name
MAC	Michigan Assessment Consortium	WIN CRS	WIN Career Readiness System
MEERA	Michigan Educational Research Association		

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