MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SPOTLIGHT

MICHIGAN Department of Education

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT

IN THIS ISSUE

August 6, 2026

Contents

NEWS 3

Embargoed Spring 2026 M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT with Essay, and PSAT-related Student Level Data Available 3

Currently Available Student-level Reports 3

Student Data Files 4

Updated Parent Resources Explain Michigan's General and Alternate Assessments 5

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Test Administration Manual and Important Dates Available 6

Fall 2026 Technology Updates to Share with Technology Coordinators 7

DRC INSIGHT Version 17, Central Office Services (COS) Version 10 8

Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide Available 10

Performance Assessments Aligned to Michigan's Model Competencies 11

COLLEGE BOARD 13

Introducing Tracy Morgan, Director of K–12 for College Board in Michigan 13

School Establishment and the Educational Entity Master 14

Join Us for the Spring 2026 Scores and Reporting Webinar 15

Spring 2027 Test Dates 15

College Board Contact Information 15
WIN LEARNING 16
How Students Can Use the WIN Work Readiness Credential 16
WIN Learning Contact Information 16
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING 17
Register Now for Fall 2026 School Accountability Workshops 17
Fall 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Training Resources 18
DRC Technology Training for M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Online Testing 18
IMPORTANT DATES 19
August 2026 19
CONTACT INFO 20
OEAA Phone Tree Options 20
Subscribe to the Michigan Department of Education Newsletters 20

NEWS

Embargoed Spring 2026 M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT with Essay, and PSAT-related Student Level Data Available

Embargoed student-level reports for the Spring 2026 administrations of M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT with Essay, PSAT-related, and WIN Work Readiness assessments are now available in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site, which is accessed through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

Note: Embargoed district and building aggregate reports and data release are scheduled for **August 24, 2026**.

Important Reminder: Spring 2026 test results are embargoed until the public release of Spring 2026 assessment results later this summer.

Districts and schools will be notified through Spotlight when the embargo has been lifted. While individual student results may be shared with parents at this time, it is **not** permissible to share any school-, district-, or state-level results with parents, the community, or other external parties until the embargo is lifted by the Michigan Department of Education. School board meetings are considered open meetings; therefore, the sharing of embargoed assessment results at these meetings **is not permissible** until the embargo is lifted.

Currently Available Student-level Reports

Reports for all listed assessments that are currently available include:

- Individual Student Reports
- Parent Reports
- Student Overview

Note: Student Roster reports will be available tomorrow.

To access your school's student-level reports, log into the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) and select the **Reports** tab, then select **Dynamic Score Reports** in the drop-down menu. Next, select the Test Cycle, ISD, District, and School for your search criteria. Then, by selecting **Search** you will be directed to the Dynamic Score Reporting Site where you can view your reports.

(continues – page 4)

The Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide (https://go.mi.gov/mhaey2307) provides step-by-step instructions for accessing and navigating the Dynamic Score Reporting Site.

Printed Parent Reports and Student Record Labels will arrive in schools later this summer. Watch the Spotlight for details.

Student Data Files

Student data files will be available tomorrow. To access the Student data files, log into the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). Select the **Reports** tab from the top of the screen, then select **Student Score Data Files** from the drop-down menu:

Next, select the **Test Cycle** (Spring 2026 M-STEP, MI-Access, SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 9, PSAT 8, or WIN Work Readiness Assessments), **Report Type**, and entity information and select **Search**.

The Student Data File Format describes all data available in the Student Data File and can be downloaded from this page after you have selected the Test Cycle.

NEWS

Updated Parent Resources Explain Michigan's General and Alternate Assessments

Two resources have been updated and are now available to help families and educators understand Michigan's assessment systems. Michigan's Education Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers (https://go.mi.gov/e8nzq2144) provides an overview of Michigan's state assessments, including which assessments students take, how results are used and available practice resources. MI-Access: Michigan's Alternate Assessment—What It Is, Who It Is For, and What It Offers (https://go.mi.gov/dvpw73089) explains the alternate assessments designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, including eligibility requirements, assessment levels, subjects assessed and the role of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team in selecting the appropriate assessment. Together, these resources explain how state assessments provide valuable information about student achievement and help schools and districts evaluate curriculum and programming.

The Michigan's Education Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers document is available on the M-STEP web page (www.michigan.gov/mstep), MME web page (www.michigan.gov/mme), and PSAT web page (www.michigan.gov/psat) under the **Parent/Student Information** section of each page.

The MI-Access: Michigan's Alternate Assessment—What It Means, Who It Is For, and What It Offers document is available on the MI-Access web page (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) under the **Parent/Student Information** section.

NEWS

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Test Administration Manual and Important Dates Available

The 2026-27 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (ELMBA) Test Administration Manual (TAM) is available now on the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment web page (www.michigan. gov/earlylitandmath) under the **What's New** and **Current Assessment Administration** sections.

- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Important Dates (https://go.mi.gov/pvq8r3088)
- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments TAM (https://go.mi.gov/57g3p2077)

The 2026-27 Early Literacy and Mathematics Important Dates document provides the dates of testing windows and deadlines for the 2026-27 benchmark assessment administration.

The Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment TAM is an essential resource for successful test administration and contains information about roles, responsibilities, and procedures that test coordinators/administrators must know. This document provides specific administration information for fall, winter, and spring versions of the benchmark assessment test.

The test administration updates include:

- Important Dates and Resource Documents
- Overview, Roles and Responsibilities, Supports and Accommodations
- Information for District/Building Coordinators and Test Administrators

Be sure to review the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments web page (www. michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) for updates and watch the Spotlight for important information and timely updates related to the ELMBA test administration.

NEWS

Fall 2026 Technology Updates to Share with Technology Coordinators

Share this article with your district and building technology staff.

The 2026-27 Data Recognition Corporation DRC INSIGHT Technology User Guide (https://mi.drcedirect.com/Documents/Unsecure/Doc.aspx?id=af8a58ac-ad4e-43e4-8015-87d1e18fd553) and the Technology User Guide Updates & Changes (https://mi.drcedirect.com/Documents/Unsecure/Doc.aspx?id=52e55d72-4fe9-4bf3-b76b-a532cd5704d0) documents are now available.

They can be accessed the **DRC INSIGHT Portal** (https://mi.drcedirect.com) under **General Information – Documents** (audience: District Technology Coordinators).

These two documents provide detailed information on how to configure, install, manage, and troubleshoot DRC INSIGHT online testing for M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessments and for Smarter Balanced Interim assessments.

The Technology User Guide (https://mi.drcedirect.com/Documents/Unsecure/Doc.aspx?id=af8a58ac-ad4e-43e4-8015-87d1e18fd553)
is a comprehensive document that provides all the information a Technology Coordinator needs to prepare for, install, manage, and troubleshoot DRC INSIGHT online testing.

The Technology User Guide Updates & Changes (https://mi.drcedirect.com/Documents/Unsecure/Doc.aspx?id=52e55d72-4fe9-4bf3-b76b-a532cd5704d0) document details all the changes that were made to the DRC INSIGHT Technology User Guide for the 2026-27 academic year.

Be sure all building and district Technology Coordinators are aware of these important resources to prepare for the 2026-27 DRC INSIGHT testing administrations.

NEWS

DRC INSIGHT Version 17, Central Office Services (COS) Version 10

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) has released **DRC INSIGHT App Version 17**, **Central Office Services (COS) Version 10**.

Please share this information with your district and building Technology Coordinators to ensure they are aware of the latest software releases and available technical resources.

Technology Coordinators are encouraged to review the DRC Technology User Guide (TUG) (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G5iqUxJK45XRam4H8BQTLW47m9N4t_Ow/view?usp=drive_link) for information about testing technology installation, upgrades, supported platforms, system requirements, deployment guidance, and troubleshooting resources.

Technology Coordinators can also access the DRC INSIGHT Portal (https://mi.drcedirect.com) to download the latest software, view technical documentation, and access additional technology resources.

NEWS

WIDA Student Data File and Aggregate Available Now

The Spring 2026 WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Student Score Data File and Aggregate Data File is now available. WIDA data is not embargoed. To download your school's student data files, log into the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), go to the **Report** menu, and select **Student Score Data Files**.

These student data files contain proficiency data (performance levels and scale scores) and will be updated to include growth scores (Student Growth Percentiles: SGPs) and growth targets (Adequate Growth Percentiles: AGPs) later this fall when available.

Note: Only student-level data for students who tested in your district are included in these student data files. For additional information, refer to the student growth information on the Student Growth in School Accountability web page (https://go.mi.gov/py57h3065).

If you have questions about accessing the Student Score Data File from the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), send an email to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov, or contact the call center at 877-560-8378 and select option 1.

NEWS

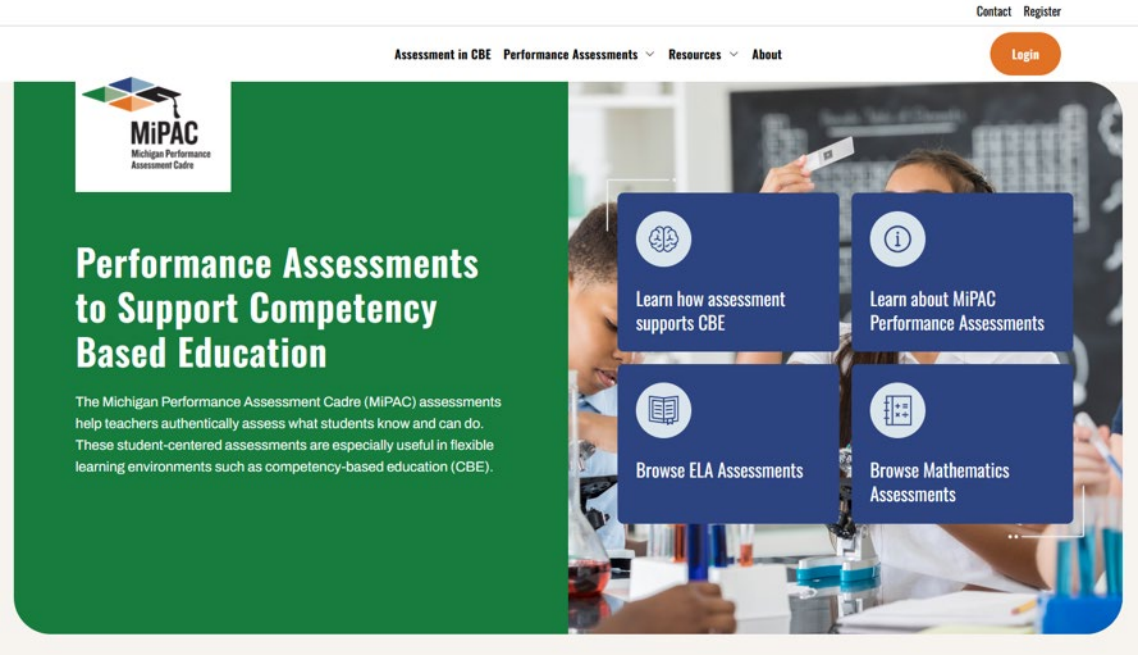
Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide Available

The 2026-27 Dynamic Score Reporting Site User Guide (https://go.mi.gov/mhaey2307) is now available on the DSRS Resources Page (https://go.mi.gov/gyk2i2566).

Changes to the 2026-27 version of the user guide include the addition of the Expand All feature to Topic Bundle Reports, with the addition Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) and Performance Expectations that can be expanded and collapsed.

NEWS

Performance Assessments Aligned to Michigan's Model Competencies



Michigan educators now have additional resources to help them authentically assess what students know and can do. More than 240 performance assessments—70 new this summer—have been added to the Michigan Performance Assessment Cadre (MiPAC) website (https://MiPAC.net). The site was launched in 2025 and now offers student-centered assessments for voluntary use in any Michigan classroom.

The MiPAC website offers an easy-to-search library of performance assessments aligned to Michigan's Model Competencies in English language arts (ELA) (https://mipac.net/assets/Docs-for-Pages/ModelComp_K-12ELA.pdf) for grades 3-12, and to Michigan's Model Competencies in Mathematics (https://mipac.net/assets/Docs-for-Pages/ModelComp_K-8Math.pdf) for grades 3-8. Users can browse by subject area, grade level, keyword, Big Idea, or Competency. They will find performance assessments covering a range of interesting topics and addressing real-world problems that students often find motivating and engaging. The MiPAC assessments require demonstrations of deeper knowledge and transfer of learning to new and novel situations.

MiPAC is a collaborative project of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC). The MiPAC assessments were developed by Michigan educators who participated in MiPAC's unique professional learning program, and they were pilot tested in typical Michigan classrooms.

(continues – page 12)

NEWS

Explore the new MiPAC website today! Browse the assessments and learn how they can help you engage students, authentically assess what they know and can do, and support efforts to implement student-centered education.

COLLEGE BOARD

Introducing Tracy Morgan, Director of K–12 for College Board in Michigan



College Board is excited to welcome Tracy Morgan as Director of K–12 in Michigan! Tracy will work directly with schools and districts across the state to help educators strengthen student outcomes and expand college and career readiness.

Reach out to Tracy for support with:

- **SAT Suite data** – using PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT results to inform instruction
- **Advanced Placement (AP) growth** –expanding access and using AP Potential to identify students ready for advanced coursework
- **Educator resources** –score reporting tools, instructional materials, and professional learning
- **BigFuture** –helping students plan their college and career paths
- **General questions** about College Board programs and supports for Michigan schools

You can reach Tracy at trmorgan@collegeboard.org.

COLLEGE BOARD

School Establishment and the Educational Entity Master

School establishment is the process through which Michigan schools are identified for participation in the College Board Suite of assessments and are set up—or "established"—for spring testing in College Board systems.

Schools must review and update staff contact information in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) (http://www.michigan.gov/eem).

College Board uses the data in the EEM to contact testing staff and establish schools for testing. Test coordinators, backup test coordinators, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Coordinators, and building-level technology directors must be assigned in the EEM.

For each College Board assessment (SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for grades 8 and 9), the following information is required for school test coordinators, backup school test coordinators, SSD Coordinators, and technology directors:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Email
- Telephone Number
- Complete Entity Physical Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip Code)

Note: The mailing address must be the physical district or school address associated with the test coordinator record. Ensure each of these fields is accurate and complete.

COLLEGE BOARD

Join Us for the Spring 2026 Scores and Reporting Webinar

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and College Board invite you to a virtual Scores and Reporting Webinar on **Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST.**

This interactive session is built to help you access and make the most of your Spring 2026 PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and/or SAT School Day data as you head into the new school year. Together, we will walk through what each report is designed to show you, how to disaggregate your results, and how to connect student performance bands to targeted skill instruction.

Designed for administrators, counselors, and other school leaders, the session supports team-based data review and instructional planning. Schools and districts are encouraged to attend as a team to maximize the value of the data and resources shared.

A recording of the webinar will be available for those unable to attend the live session. Staff may register for the webinar using the College Board registration page (https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ftuEe0Z2R1C0nza0iPrPww). Please share this registration page with relevant staff.

Spring 2027 Test Dates

The Spring 2027 testing window for the Michigan-provided SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 (grades 8 and 9) is **April 5 - 30, 2027.**

Important Reminder: Effective with the 2026-27 school year, the Essay is no longer part of the Michigan-provided SAT. More information about this change will be provided as needed through Spotlight.
Schools have flexibility to administer tests on any school day within this window, at any time during the school day. All testing, including retests, must be completed by **April 30, 2027**. No testing is permitted beyond this date.

Additional details on staff training, key deadlines, and preparation for the Spring 2027 SAT Suite of Assessments will be shared in upcoming *Spotlight* newsletters.

College Board Contact Information

- **Call**: Michigan Educator Hotline at 866-870-3127 (Option 1)
- **Email**: michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org

WIN LEARNING

How Students Can Use the WIN Work Readiness Credential

The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) consists of a college entrance test, an optional work skills test, and the M-STEP science and social studies assessments. The WIN Work Readiness Assessment is the optional work skills component of the MME and offers participating students an opportunity to demonstrate workplace-related competencies.

Students who participate in the WIN Work Readiness Assessment may earn a WIN Work Readiness Credential, which can be used in job applications, resumes, apprenticeship entries, and other career-focused pathways after high school. This credential may be especially valuable for students interested in employment, technical training programs, or career readiness opportunities following graduation.

The WIN Work Readiness Assessments measure students' skills in Work Ready Math; Work Ready Reading; and Work Ready Data, which involves interpreting and using workplace information presented in forms, charts, and workflows. Each WIN Achievement Level aligns with the U.S. Department of Labor's O*NET Job Zones (https://www.onetonline.org/help/online/zones), giving students a practical way to explore occupations that match their demonstrated skill levels and to understand the training or education associated with those careers.

Throughout the school year, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) and WIN Learning will provide training and informational sessions for District and Building Assessment Coordinators, Work Readiness Assessment Coordinators, and other administrative staff.

More information will be shared in future Spotlight editions.

WIN Learning Contact Information

- Win Learning Support: mailto:support@winlearning.com or 888-717-9461 (option 2)
- MDE OEAA Tech Support: mde-oeaa@michigan.gov or 877-560-8378 (option 2)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Register Now for Fall 2026 School Accountability Workshops

Are you new to school accountability or need a refresher? Would you like to learn more about navigating, interpreting, and using school accountability reports and data? The School Accountability from the Michigan Department of Education is holding FREE, in-person learning workshops this fall.
Space is limited for the in-person events, so register today to guarantee your spot!

- **8:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at Kent ISD**
  Education Services Center, 2930 Knapp St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
- **8:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m., Thursday, October 1, 2026 at Saginaw ISD**
  Millet Learning Center, 3660 Southfield Drive, Saginaw, MI 48601

For those interested in a remote option or unable to attend in-person, we are also hosting a single virtual session without the interactive activities of the in-person workshops. The virtual session does not require pre-registration.

- **8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2026 on Microsoft Teams**
  - Virtual Meeting Link – Click to Join Meeting:
    https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/235990817368962?p=mE4wUE47Jig4dc0A4q
  - Download Event to Calendar (.ics file)

SCECHs will be available for in-person and virtual event options. An additional in-person event at Wayne RESA is currently in the planning phase and will be available for registration at a later date.

More information about upcoming school accountability workshops can be found at: 2026 School Accountability Workshops.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Fall 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Training Resources

District and Building Assessment Coordinators are encouraged to review the available online test administration training resources before the Fall 2026 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment administration.

- **District and Building Coordinator Training Session (Meeting Recording)**
  - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C_9M3lgQ-d9r8mqBw-gGFupHAO4_x9Fq/view
- **PowerPoint Slides**
  - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RQPcGdzyTRR1nC5DNU-5Mpt0nOgM3-kk/view
- **Test Administration Manual**
  - https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/early-literacy-and-mathematics-benchmark-assessments
- **Online Test Directions**
  - https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/early-literacy-and-mathematics-benchmark-assessments
- **Benchmark Assessment Tutorial**
  - https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi
- **Online Training Tools (OTTs)**
  - https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi

DRC Technology Training for M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Online Testing

Share the available 2026-27 technology training with your Technology Coordinators.

Technology Coordinators

- **Technology Coordinator Training (Recorded)**
  - DRC INSIGHT Portal: https://mi.drcedirect.com

IMPORTANT DATES

August 2026

The Assessment Calendars web page (go.mi.gov/10v9o2012) provides easy access to important state assessment dates. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability offers calendars in Excel, PDF, and Google Calendar formats, making it convenient to view and use them in the format that works best for your needs.

Important dates for the 2026–27 academic year are currently available only for the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment. As additional dates are finalized for other Michigan-administered assessment programs—M-STEP, SAT, PSAT, WIN Work Readiness, MI-Access, and WIDA—they will be shared in upcoming issues of Spotlight.

Start Date	Assessment/Task	End Date
Ongoing	**Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** Pre-identification of students in the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure)	Friday, October 23, 2026 by 12:00 p.m.
Ongoing	**Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** Create/Manage Online Test Registrations (formerly called test sessions) in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Friday, October 23, 2026
Monday, August 3, 2026	**WIDA Screener Cycle I Opens**	Ongoing
Monday, August 17, 2026	**Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** Fall 2026 test administration window	Friday, October 23, 2026

CONTACT INFO

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

Subscribe to the Michigan Department of Education Newsletters

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and information from the Michigan Department of Education. **Subscribe** (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new) to the *Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability*, *MDE Official Communications*, and *MICIP Continuous Communication* newsletters.

- Archive for *Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability* (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)
- Archive for *MDE Memos* (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information/memos)
- Archive for *MICIP Continuous Communication* (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/school-performance-supports/micip/micip-continuous-communication)

Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48915-0008