

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

August 27, 2020

Quick Links . . . take you directly to articles or sections . . .

- [MDE-Approved Benchmark Providers under Public Act 149 sec. 104.9](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Offered to Districts Free of Charge](#)
- [New Alternate Content Expectations for Science are Here!](#)
- [2019-2020 Graduation Rate Appeals Window](#)



[Allowlisting](#)



[OEAA Invites Input from Spotlight Readers and Their Frontline Educators](#)

- [College Board Corner](#)



[ACT WorkKeys](#)

- [Important Dates](#)
- [Contacts](#)

MDE-Approved Benchmark Providers Under Public Act 149 sec. 104.9


On August 20, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Public Act 149 into law, as part of Michigan's "Return to Learn" legislation. On August 21, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) shared information pertaining to benchmark assessments in a [memo](#) to local and intermediate school district superintendents and public school academy directors.

[Public Act 149](#) requires that the Michigan Department of Education approve at least four but no more than five providers of benchmark assessments to meet the requirements of this legislation. The approved providers are:

- NWEA
- Curriculum Associates
- Renaissance Learning
- Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)

In addition, the law requires that MDE make one of the benchmark assessments available by a provider at no cost to districts. MDE will make available the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (administered through MDE's administration contract with DRC) at no additional cost to districts. MDE will also continue to provide MDE's early literacy assessments for grades K-2 at no cost to districts, as has been the case since 2017.

Districts that want to learn more about the products these vendors provide and to receive information on ordering and administering these assessments to their students can use the contact information on the following page.

Key:  Reminder (previously run article)



includes information Tech
Coordinators need to know

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Benchmark Provider	Contact Information
NWEA	michigan@nwea.org
Curriculum Associates	<p>Jeff Tompkins 313-316-0141 Jtompkins@cainc.com (Genesee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties)</p> <hr/> <p>Vikki Halstead 989-577-0305 Vhalstead@cainc.com (Rest of State)</p>
Renaissance Learning	<p>Aaron Hartman 586-533-1107 Aaron.Hartman@renaissance.com</p>
Data Recognition Corporation	<p>Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (grades 3-8) 877-560-8378 option 2 misupport@datarecognitioncorp.com</p> <hr/> <p>Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (grades K-2) 877-560-8378 option 3 mde-oeaa@michigan.gov</p>

Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Offered to Districts Free of Charge

Michigan’s recently passed “Return to Learn” legislation (Public Act 149 section 104[14]) requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to make a benchmark assessment available at no cost to districts. As announced in the August 20, 2020 [memo](#), MDE will make the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (administered through MDE’s administration contract with Data Recognition Corporation [DRC]) available at no additional cost to districts. MDE will also continue to provide MDE’s early literacy assessments for grades K-2 at no cost to districts, as has been the case since 2017.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System consists of three components: end-of-year summative assessments designed for accountability purposes (M-STEP is based on the Smarter Balanced end-of-year summative assessments); interim assessments designed to support teaching and learning throughout the year; and a suite of tools and resources (found in the Tools for Teachers website) that support classroom-based formative assessment practices.

Interim Assessments

Smarter Balanced offers different types of interim assessments based on the granularity of the content they assess.

- **Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)** measure similar content to the summative assessment and may be helpful for determining the knowledge and skills of students who are new to the district or the state.
- **Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)** are assessments teachers can use throughout the school year to assess smaller bundles of content.

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Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

- **Focused IABs** assess no more than three assessment targets to provide educators with a more detailed understanding of student learning.

For more information regarding these assessments, visit the [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments web page](#). There are a number of resources on this page, including an [overview of the interim assessments](#).

Tools for Teachers

Tools for Teachers is an easy-to-use website that features lessons and activities created by educators to enhance instruction, save time, and prepare students for college or a career.

Next week's Spotlight will feature an article devoted to Tools for Teachers and how educators can connect this valuable resource for the important work they are already performing regularly in their classrooms.

Questions?

You can contact the DRC call center with questions or for support in implementing the interim assessments.

- email: misupport@datarecognitioncorp.com
- telephone: 877-560-8378, option 2

New Alternate Content Expectations for Science Are Here!

New alternate content standards for science have been approved and posted to the [MI-Access web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access). These new alternate content expectations for science replace the 2007 version of the Michigan Extended Benchmarks for Science.

These new alternate content expectations are based on the Michigan K-12 science performance expectations and the Next Generation Science Standards. The new expectations were developed by Michigan educators from both the science discipline and from the special education field. The [Michigan's Alternate Content Expectations for Science: Development Process and Structure](#) document outlines the process used in the development.

These new alternate content expectations were developed to help teachers guide their students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities in gaining access to and engaging in rich science educational experiences. Teachers are encouraged to start addressing these new alternate content expectations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities this year. There is a set of expectations for each grade level from kindergarten through fifth grade, and a set for middle school and high school. Each set has a full Michigan range of complexity (high, medium, and low), consistent with the English language arts and mathematics Essential Elements.

These new alternate content expectations will serve as the foundation for the MI-Access assessment in science, which is also designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

In Spring 2021, as in the past several years, MI-Access will assess science using the 2007 extended benchmarks for science in grades 4, 7 and 11. In 2022, MI-Access science will measure the new alternate content expectations in grades 5, 8 and 11. Both the new alternate expectations for science and the Legacy 2007 science extended benchmarks can be found on the MI-Access web page for [Michigan's Alternate Content Expectations for Social Studies and Science](#).

2019-2020 Graduation Rate Appeals Window

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) currently has the 2019-2020 Graduation Rate Appeals Window opened in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). Appealable Graduation Rates were published in the Graduation and Dropout (GAD) application on August 10, 2020. Communications were sent by CEPI to all schools and districts; however, we want to follow up on that communication to stress the importance of ensuring graduation rate data are carefully reviewed and any necessary corrections are made at this time.

Graduation rates are an important part of accountability calculations, and graduation rate data from the 2019-2020 school year, once finalized (September 10, 2020), cannot be changed. If you have not already done so, take advantage of this opportunity to review and potentially appeal your graduation rate data for the 2019-2020 school year. During the appeals window, you can report end-of-summer graduates, submit cohort year changes, update exit status, and request unique identification code (UIC) linking.

Graduation rates can be only appealed during the Graduation Rates Appeals window in the MSDS, through September 10, 2020.

It is imperative that you review your graduation rate data during the appeals window; these data will impact 2020-2021 accountability results. While we are fully committed to ensuring

accurate data in graduation rate reporting, we must also meet certain reporting deadlines that do not allow us to change data after the graduation rate appeals window has closed. Take this time to review these data, to ensure your school and district graduation rates are accurate.

For the most up-to-date information on the appeals window, visit the [CEPI MSDS Graduation and Dropout Information web page](#). This web page includes numerous user support materials, including a user guide, frequently asked questions, and a summary of district action needed. If you have any questions, send an email to CEPI customer support at CEPI@michigan.gov. Provide your name, telephone number (including area code and extension), and school/district name along with your message.

Allowlisting

When testing online, your firewall or content filters could stop the flow of testing data. To prevent this, you can either allow INSIGHT traffic to bypass the firewall filters or allowlist (whitelist) the addresses INSIGHT is trying to reach. If you have multiple layers of protection, it is important to remember to update the allowlist on all of them.

The following list covers WIDA, M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark testing with a port/protocol of 80/http and 443/https for all:

<https://east-1-drc-wbte-prod-wida.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://east-2-drc-wbte-prod-wida.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://east-1-drc-wbte-prod-mi.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://east-2-drc-wbte-prod-mi.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://drc-wbte-prod.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://wida-te.drccedirect.com>

<https://mi-te.drccedirect.com>

<https://drc-centraloffice.com>

<https://mi-insight-client.drccedirect.com>

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Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

<https://mi-insight.drcedirect.com>

<https://mi.drcedirect.com>

<https://www.drcedirect.com>

<https://wbte.drcedirect.com>

<https://dtk.drcedirect.com>

<https://api-gateway-cloud.drcedirect.com>

<https://api-gateway.drcedirect.com>

<https://cdn-content-prod.drcedirect.com>

<https://cdn-download-prod.drcedirect.com>

<https://drc-wbte-prod.s3.amazonaws.com>

<https://wida.drcedirect.com>

<https://wida-insight.drcedirect.com>

<https://wida-insight client.drcedirect.com>

<https://www.wida-ams.us>

The bolded entries at the top are new this year. If you can allowlist wildcard addresses, DRC recommends you allowlist https://*.drcedirect.com.



OEAA Invites Input from Spotlight Readers and Their Frontline Educators

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) invites you to be a part of our communication and guidance efforts for 2020-21. OEAA is inviting input as to the assessment information you would find most relevant and practical in this year's teaching and learning reality. We invite Spotlight readers to:

- reflect on what you value and know about assessment
- reflect on what new information, tools, and strategies you and your staff need
- complete our short, 3-question survey through the link below by midnight on **August 30, 2020**
- share the survey link with staff/colleagues who might want to share ideas

Watch future Spotlight issues for more information from OEAA about new communication efforts and support opportunities.

[Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N726C5T) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N726C5T>)

You can provide feedback up until midnight on **August 30, 2020**.

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

College Board Corner

Information on SAT®, PSAT™ 8/9, and PSAT™ 10 provided by the College Board

Upcoming Deadline: September 16, 2020

- ordering standard and accommodated test materials for the October 14 SAT with Essay, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 8/9
- requesting ancillary materials for off-site testing for all fall tests—see the [August 6 Spotlight](#) for more information

September 23 SAT with Essay

The deadline to order materials for the SAT with Essay for the September 23, 2020 administration has passed and orders cannot be placed in the test ordering site. If you would like to administer on this date but did not place an order, call the Michigan Educator Hotline (866-870-3127) as soon as possible to determine if an order can be placed.

Winter PSAT/NMSQT

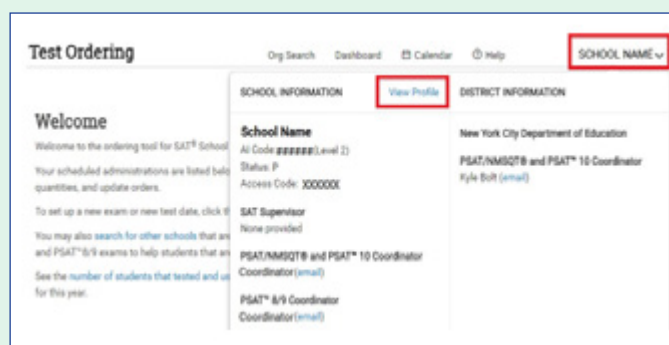
- College Board has announced that there will be an additional administration of the PSAT/NMSQT on **January 26, 2021**.
- Ordering for this administration in the College Board test ordering site will not be available until October.
- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) **will** provide this administration to students in Grades 10 or 11 who did not test in October.

Check Your Address

Be sure to double-check your address in the test ordering site for accuracy. Addresses in the test ordering site are not taken from EEM (Educational

Entity Master) as they will be for spring testing. To find your school's address, log into the test ordering site, click on your **School Name**, and then select **View Profile**.

If your address is incorrect, contact ETS Code Control by calling 609-771-7091, or email codecontrol@ets.org as soon as possible.



Check Your PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 Orders

MDE is providing only the PSAT 8/9 for Grade 9 and the PSAT/NMSQT for Grades 10 and 11. Schools may order for other grades but are responsible for paying for any tests administered to these students. Update any orders by **September 16, 2020**, as needed.



Information on ACT® WorkKeys® provided by the ACT.



If you still have WorkKeys test materials in your school, refer to the [June 11, 2020 Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability Newsletter](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for information about packing the test materials for return to ACT.

After packing the materials, contact ACT and we will schedule a pickup for you. You may contact us by using either the [Contact Us web page](#) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html) or by calling 800-553-6244, extension 2800, between 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET.

Provide the following information:

- Number of boxes
- School hours
- Where to pick up at your school

Reminder: All secure test materials, including prepared student answer documents and test

booklets, must be stored in a secure location until the WorkKeys Test Coordinator can return the WorkKeys materials to ACT.

We appreciate your prompt attention. The deadline to return your outstanding test materials is **August 28, 2020**.

Contacting ACT

If you have questions, you may:

1. contact ACT via the [Contact Us web page](#) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html)
2. call ACT at 800-553-6244 between 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - standard time: ext. 2800
 - accommodations: ext. 1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

Friday, August 28, 2020

- **DEADLINE** for returning **ACT WorkKeys** test materials from Spring 2020 administration

August 2020

SAT and PSAT

Now – September 16, 2020

- Materials Ordering window for standard and nonstandard materials for:
 - » **SAT with Essay**
(for October 14 Primary test date and for the Accommodations window)
 - » **PSAT NMSQT**
(for October 14 and October 29 Primary test dates)
 - » **PSAT 8/9** (Primary test date window and Accommodations test window)

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 1, 2020

- Pre-Identification of students in the OEAA Secure Site for **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)**

August 31 – October 2, 2020

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)** Fall 2020 testing window

September/October 2020

SAT with Essay

September 23, 2020

- Fall 2020 administration date

October 14, 2020

- Fall 2020 administration date

October 27, 2020

- Fall 2020 makeup administration (This makeup date can also be used as a third administration date.)

PSAT 8/9

September 21 – October 29, 2020

- Fall 2020 administration window (Pick one primary administration date, and complete all makeups within two weeks of the primary administration date.)

PSAT/NMSQT

October 14, 2020

- Fall 2020 administration date

October 29, 2020

- Fall 2020 administration date

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues

Contacts

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues:

Assessment and Accountability Call Center

877-560-8378 (select appropriate option)

Options	Topics
1	to report cheating and unethical behavior by a district/school in regards to state assessments
2	for support of Central Office Services (COS), DRC INSIGHT Portal, and INSIGHT for the online M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)
3	for support of the OEAA Secure Site for <u>all</u> state assessments, administration and policy questions related to M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2), and accountability reporting
4	for questions about the College Entrance and Workskills assessments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eligibility, MDE policies, and OEAA Secure Site Support 2. SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 – College Board 3. WorkKeys – ACT®
5	for questions about the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, and support for WIDAAMS, INSIGHT, and Central Office Services (COS)
8	for all other questions

Email

For assessment questions:

mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

For accountability questions:

mde-accountability@michigan.gov

For assistance with WIDA Screener, W-APT, and the WIDA Secure Portal questions:
(for questions not covered in options 3 and 5 in the table above)

WIDA Client Services

866-276-7735

Call Center: 877-560-8378 (select appropriate option) for assistance with assessment or accountability issues