



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 18, 2021

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

**SUBJECT:** M-STEP Testing Windows Extended - MEMO #COVID-19-169

Michigan's request to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to waive the administration of spring 2021 state summative assessments and associated high-stakes school accountability requirements, remains pending.

As such, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) continues to prepare for spring testing in the event that the assessment waiver request is not approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

To provide more flexibility in the event that USED requires the state to administer state summative assessments this year, MDE is extending both M-STEP testing windows to allow districts and schools additional time to administer the state assessments. The first M-STEP window for grades 5, 8, and 11 is being extended to May 21, 2021. The second M-STEP window for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 and the MI-Access window are being extended to June 4, 2021.

This additional time will provide greater flexibility for options, such as testing in smaller groups or re-scheduling around school closures and hybrid schedules.

The PSAT, SAT, and WorkKeys administrations remain the same with the previously communicated additional flexibilities.

Please continue to monitor all MDE communications for any further information.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788