

# Spotlight

## on Student Assessment and Accountability

### What's New

Week of May 27, 2021

- [End-of-Testing Reminders for M-STEP and MI-Access](#)
- [Return to Learn Benchmark Data Collection Requirements Follow-up](#)

### Reminders

- [Michigan Performance Assessment Cadre \(MiPAC\) Development Opportunity](#)
- [WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Speaking Test Survey](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

### Recently Asked Questions

#### End-of-Testing Reminders for M-STEP and MI-Access

##### Spring 2021 Testing Window Closes Friday, June 4, 2021

The testing window for M-STEP grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 and MI-Access will close next **Friday, June 4, 2021 at 4 p.m.** No testing will be available for students after the window closes. For information about ensuring all students have completed their assigned tests, see the article in the [May 2 Spotlight](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)).

##### M-STEP and MI-Access Additional Material Order Window Closes Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at noon

The Additional Material Order Window for M-STEP grades 3, 4, 6, and 7, and MI-Access closes at **noon on Tuesday, June 1, 2021**. All material orders must be submitted by this deadline for materials to be received before the testing window closes.

##### M-STEP Grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 and MI-Access Return of Paper/Pencil Materials Deadline: June 9, 2021

Return all secure paper/pencil test materials for M-STEP grades 3, 4, 6, and 7, and MI-Access as soon as possible after testing. The deadline for returning M-STEP grades 5, 8, and 11 is past; any of these materials in schools must be returned immediately. The deadline for materials to be shipped is **June 9, 2021**.

For information about returning paper/pencil materials:

- M-STEP paper/pencil materials information can be found on pages 65-71 of the [M-STEP Test Administration Manual \(TAM\)](#). This includes detailed information and graphics on how all scorable and non-scorable test materials must be processed, including return shipment deadlines. The TAM is on the [M-STEP web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep)) under **Current Assessment Administration**.

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- For information and packing diagrams on returning MI-Access materials, refer to the [MI-Access Instructions for Materials Return](#) on the [MI-Access web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mi-access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access)).

The MI-Access Supported Independence and Participation (SI/P) student scores must be entered and submitted using the online answer document by **Friday, June 4, 2021 by 4 p.m.** For details, refer to the MI-Access [SI/P Online Answer Document Instructions for Score Entry](#), found on the [MI-Access web page](#).

## Return to Learn Benchmark Data Collection Requirements Follow-up

On August 20, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed into law [Public Act 149 of 2020](#) (P.A. 149), which took immediate effect as part of the Return to Learn package of laws. P.A. 149 requires all districts to administer benchmark assessments to students in grades K-8. It also requires the reporting of certain data either to the Michigan Data Hub or the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

P.A. 149 provides three options for benchmark assessments. Schools may choose one or more of the following:

- **One of four benchmark assessment providers approved by MDE (subsections [9] and [12])**  
See Scenario 1.
- **Benchmark assessments with progress monitoring tools (subsections [10] and [15])**  
See Scenario 2.
- **Local benchmark assessments (subsections [11] and [15])**  
See Scenario 2.

MDE wishes to thank the majority of districts who have completed or are working towards completing the tasks needed to meet the reporting requirements. It is critical that districts that have not yet started/completed this work do so soon as possible, so MDE and CEPI can meet the legislatively mandated deadline of **September 1, 2021** for reporting assessment results to the governor and the Michigan Senate and House education-related standing committees. Depending on the benchmark assessment(s) your district is administering, either scenario 1, scenario 2, or both will apply.

**Scenario 1: Your district chose to administer one or more benchmark assessments from the MDE-approved list of providers.** These assessments are:

- Curriculum Associates i-Ready
- NWEA Map
- Renaissance STAR
- Smarter Interim Assessments (offered by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC))
- MDE Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (offered by DRC)

Please contact the Michigan Data Hub help desk immediately by email at [support@midatahub.org](mailto:support@midatahub.org) or by calling 269-250-9240 to start or complete the integration configuration process of benchmark assessment data into the Michigan Data Hub. This work needs to be completed no later than **June 1, 2021**.

**Scenario 2: Your district chose to administer a local benchmark assessment or another benchmark assessment with progress monitoring tools.**

In April 2021, districts were asked to complete the Return to Learn Benchmark Assessment survey through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/

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Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS). The survey, which was available April 1 – April 12, 2021, required districts to report the following:

- the local assessment(s) used to comply with the Return to Learn law
- the grades and content assessed by the assessment(s)
- how the assessment(s) measures change, including learning loss
- how the district plans to address any losses in learning

**The survey will reopen from June 2 through June 16 to capture missing data.** Districts can complete the survey using this link. Email CEPI at [cepi@michigan.gov](mailto:cepi@michigan.gov) with your district name and district code with questions or for assistance. If your district completed the GEMS/MARS survey in April you do not need to resubmit or complete the survey again.

If your district falls into both scenario 1 and 2, you must follow the instructions for each scenario.

## Resources and Assistance

MDE, CEPI, and the Michigan Data Hub have collaborated to provide several resources to help districts meet the reporting requirements of the Return to Learn law.

## MDE Resources:

- [Return to Learn Benchmark Assessment Reporting FAQs](#) document
- [Return to Learn Benchmark Assessments](#) web page

## Michigan Data Hub Resources:

- [Michigan Data Hub](#) website
- [Michigan Data Hub Trainings](#) web page, which hosts vendor-specific webinar recordings and PowerPoint slide decks for integrating benchmark data from Curriculum Associates, DRC, NWEA, and Renaissance.

Still have questions? Contact us at:

- **MDE**  
mde-michigan.gov  
877-560-8378 (opt. 8)
- **CEPI**  
[cepi@michigan.gov](mailto:cepi@michigan.gov)
- **Michigan Data Hub**  
[support@midatahub.org](mailto:support@midatahub.org)  
269-250-9240



## Reminders

### Michigan Performance Assessment Cadre (MiPAC) Development Opportunity

Are you interested in learning about developing and implementing performance assessments in your district/school? Join the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability as we work with the Michigan Assessment Consortium to develop performance assessments that are aligned to Michigan's academic standards and model essential skills in mathematics and English language arts (ELA) in grades 3-8.



Information about preferred candidate qualifications and participant expectations is available in the [May 13, 2021 Spotlight edition](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)).

If you are interested in participating, submit your resume in an email to [mde-oeaa@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-oeaa@michigan.gov), using the subject line: "MiPAC Application".

### WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Speaking Test Survey

WIDA wants to know what you think of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Speaking test, and what speaking activities you use in your classroom.

To help WIDA improve the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Online Speaking test, please respond to this [survey](#) ([www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpeakingTest](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpeakingTest)). It should take no more than 15 minutes to complete the survey, which will close on **June 28, 2021**.

### Assessment and Accountability Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In light of the recent announcements on the approval of Michigan Department of Education's accountability waiver and the denial of our assessment waiver, the Office of Assessment and Accountability has provided two FAQ documents to address some of the frequently asked questions that have recently come into our office.

- [FAQ – Assessments](#)
- [FAQ - Accountability](#)

## CB College Board Corner

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

### Questions about Spring SAT, PSAT 8/9, or PSAT 10?

- Call the Michigan Educator Hotline: 866-870-3127 (select Option 1)
- Email: [michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org](mailto:michiganadministratorsupport@collegeboard.org)

### REMINDERS

#### Thank You!

Thank you to all who served as test coordinators, SSD coordinators, proctors, hall monitors, or room monitors for the Spring 2021 administration. We understand this has been a stressful year for all educators, and we greatly appreciate your flexibility, hard work, and your dedication to your students!

#### SSD Coordinator Email – School Testing Calendar

SSD coordinators may have received an email last week from the SSD department about updating your school's testing calendar. Although the Michigan Department of Education is providing your students with the SAT on a school day, some students may also choose to register for a weekend administration of the SAT at their own expense. For weekend testing, most students will test in a weekend test center. These test centers are normally housed in high schools or colleges that applied to the College Board and were approved for weekend testing. Many accommodations, including extra breaks, use of a calculator, and others, can be provided in a weekend

test center. However, students who have certain accommodations—such as double time, pre-recorded audio via MP3 streaming, braille, or large font greater than 20 point—will test in their school due to their special testing needs. This “school-based testing” means accommodated students may be looking to test in your school, even if you have not signed up to be a weekend test center.

The primary SSD coordinator of a school serves as the contact for the College Board and for students who require school-based testing. To support this process, each primary SSD coordinator is asked to fill out their school testing calendar, which can be accessed on the SSD Online Dashboard. This allows you to notify us if there are administrations for which you will **not** be able to provide school-based testing. The testing calendar in SSD Online is for SAT only. It can be updated for schools that are only testing PSAT, but remember it is **not related to state testing** in any way.

The decision to support school-based testing administrations is completely at the discretion of the school. Neither the College Board nor the Michigan Department of Education requires you to participate, nor does this have an impact on the state-provided spring testing. To see the students at your school who have registered for a national administration, the SSD coordinator can check the SSD Online Dashboard for a student's registered test date. If you decide to not support the national testing for these students who need accommodations, College Board will work with the students directly to find another school in the area that is available for school-based testing.

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

## Recently Asked Questions . . .

### **When is an Incident Report required and how do I submit one?**

Any testing irregularities that occur must be reported to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA). The [Incident Reporting Guide](#) on the M-STEP web page and in Appendix C of the [M-STEP Test Administration Manual](#) includes detailed information about when an incident is required or optional to report, listed according to incident categories.

The MI-Access incident report guides are listed in the [Functional Independence Test Administration Manual](#) in appendix H (page 96) and the [Supported Independence and Participation Test Administration Manual](#) in appendix I (page 84). These appendices include detailed information about when an incident is required or optional to report, listed according to incident categories.

Incident Reports are submitted to the Michigan Department of Education through the OEAA Secure Site. Details about what information to include in an Incident Report were provided in the [May 13 Spotlight](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)).

Detailed information on how to access and use the Secure Site Incident Reporting tool is available in the [Incident Reporting](#) document, located on the [Secure Site Training web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining](http://www.michigan.gov/secaresitetraining)).

### **If a student is listed in our student information system, why are they not listed on the Accountable Students Enrolled and Demographics?**

The Accountable Students Enrolled and Demographics displays student enrollment information pulled and updated from the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). If students are in the school's student information system, this does not mean that they are in MSDS. Work with your district MSDS user to verify and update student information in MSDS.

Refer to the [May 6 Spotlight](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)) for important dates when working with the Accountable Students Enrolled and Demographics list.

## Important Dates

### Approaching Deadlines!

#### Monday, June 1, 2021

- **M-STEP** Additional Material Order window for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7
- **MI-Access** Additional Material Order window for all grades

#### Friday, June 4, 2021

- Online and paper/pencil assessment window for **M-STEP** grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 **CLOSES**
- **MI-Access FI** Online and Paper/Pencil assessment window for all grades **CLOSES**
- **MI-Access S/P** online score entry **CLOSES**

### May 2021

#### Early Literacy and Mathematics

##### Now – June 29, 2021

- **Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)** Pre-identification of students in OEAA Secure Site window

##### Now – June 30, 2021

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

### June/July 2021

#### Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 10-11 a.m.

- **DRC Webinar: Technology Coordinator Training** – applies to the Benchmark Assessments, WIDA Screener, WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, and Spring 2022 testing  
[Join webinar](https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/j/94405940716) (https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/j/94405940716)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	3	4	5	6
		11	12	13



## Upcoming Events

### Building a Better Assessment Future

Virtual Conference

**June 28–30, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

Did you know that about 80 percent of the assessments given to students are the result of decisions made by local educators? Those decisions will be the focus of the [Building a Better Assessment Future](#) virtual conference. This “not-to-be-missed” event offers support for district teams as they reimagine their districts’ assessment systems and improve learning for all students.

The BBAF conference will take place **June 28-30, 2021** and is hosted by [Michigan Assessment Consortium \(MAC\)](#) in partnership with Michigan Department of Education’s [FAME](#) (Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators) program and [Oakland Schools](#). Event participants will hear from and engage with respected national and international assessment experts, such as Susan Brookhart, Jan Chappuis, Margaret Heritage, Jim Pellegrino, Ken O’Connor, and Rick Stiggins.

Participants will also have ample time to work with Michigan assessment leaders, reflect on their current assessment practices, and collaborate to find new opportunities to improve student learning through assessment.

### Come as a team or attend on your own!

Educators and policy makers at all levels are invited to attend with schools/districts encouraged to register and work in teams of three or more. The event will feature group work time and office hours with selected experts, allowing participants to address their schools’ unique opportunities. Plus, the FAME program and the MAC will support each team’s work after the conference through private consultation and group engagements designed to keep the collaboration going.

### Learn more

Download and share the [BBAF conference flyer](#).

Find more details and register on the [Conference event page](#) ([bit.ly/MAC-BBAF](https://bit.ly/MAC-BBAF)).



## 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"> <li>1. Eligibility, MDE policies, and OEAA Secure Site Support</li> <li>2. SAT, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 – College Board</li> <li>3. WorkKeys – ACT</li> </ol>
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](mailto:mde-oeaa@michigan.gov)

For accountability questions:

[mde-accountability@michigan.gov](mailto: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