

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of September 2, 2021

- Michigan Department of Education Releases Results from Most Recent M-STEP, Benchmark Assessments and Read by Grade 3 Testing
- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments
- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Student-Level Reports Available
- It's Time to Ensure your School and District Contacts are Updated in the Educational Entity Master (EEM)
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Reminders

- 2020-2021 Graduation Rate Appeals

Michigan Department of Education Releases Results from Most Recent M-STEP, Benchmark Assessments and Read by Grade 3 Testing

The Michigan Department of Education on Tuesday released Spring 2021 test results for the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), grade 8 PSAT, SAT, Return to Learn benchmark, and Read by Grade 3 assessments and the embargo on school and district test results is lifted.

After a year and a half of disrupted learning due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, student state assessment scores from this spring dipped from the last time that students were given statewide assessments in the spring of 2019, the department concluded.

"In spite of the extraordinary efforts of educators, support staff, school leaders, parents, the broader community, and students themselves, the disruption of the pandemic has inevitably resulted in unfinished learning for many of our children," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Results from the state summative assessments and the local benchmark assessments show that some students were able to make relatively normal gains, while many others will be working with their teachers to accelerate their learning to catch up to where they otherwise would have been in the absence of the pandemic. In Michigan and across the country, we have our work cut out for us."

- To learn more, read the [press release](#)
- For a complete look at this year's assessment results, go to www.mischooldata.org.

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments

Did you know that the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) can be used as one of the [initial assessments](#) for compliance with Michigan's Read by Grade 3 (RBG3) law? From kindergarten through grade 3, students must be administered an initial assessment within the first 30 days of school and three times in the following school year. While other assessments may be used, MDE offers this assessment to districts at no cost.

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments are offered three times a year (fall, winter, and spring). In Fall 2021, the assessment will be available from August 23 – October 29, 2021 for students in Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2.

Several MDE resources provide an overview of the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. A document titled [What It Is, What It Means, What It Offers](#) explains what is on the test and provides an example of what the assessments are like. Another is the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Video](#). The [Technology Enhanced Item Interaction Examples](#) provides examples of the different types of items students will encounter on the assessment

To prepare students for the online assessments, teachers should give them the opportunity to view the [student tutorial](#) and practice the [Online Tools Training \(OTT\)](#).

Online Resources

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has developed online resources for students taking state assessments at all grade levels. The resources support the idea that children can learn about online technology as teachers and other educators demonstrate the use of technology (classroom viewing of the student video tutorial, classroom viewing of the OTTs), followed by interaction with the students as they practice with technology (OTTs)

- Student Tutorials are student-narrated videos that introduce teachers and students to the online tests and tools contained in the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. The Student Tutorials are designed to be administered in a group setting, such as the classroom, using a projector or other similar resource. The tutorials can be accessed in three different ways:
 - » [Online Tools Training](#) (<https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi>) – only the Chrome browser will allow access the tutorials; once at the site, select the yellow DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments Tutorials link at the bottom of the page
 - » DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments select the yellow DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments Tutorials link at the bottom of the page
 - » [DRC INSIGHT Portal](#) (<https://www.drctdirect.com/all/ecaportal-v2-ui/#/login/MI>) – select the Documents and Training Materials link on the Welcome page, and then the Test Tutorials tab.

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- Teachers can access OTTs for students in grades K–2. The sample item sets, embedded within the OTTs, are a select group of English language arts and mathematics items that encompass various kinds of technology-enhanced items (such as matching, drag and drop, hot spots). OTTs offer teachers and students practice in solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan’s content standards and in navigating the online test delivery system. It is essential for students to practice the various item types, especially matching and drag and drop items. The OTTs can be accessed in two different ways:
 - » [Online Tools Training](https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi) (https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi) – only the Chrome browser will allow access the tutorials; once at the site, select Online Tools Training under the Benchmark Assessments logo
 - » DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments select Online Tools Training under the Benchmark Assessments logo

Recommended Sequence

The OEAA recommends that classroom teachers introduce online testing to their students by playing the Student Tutorial Video in class, so students can see how the online testing system and tools work. After the Student Tutorial video is shown and discussed in the classroom, teachers can show the Online Tools Training (OTTs) to the entire class (not necessarily on the same day). The students will watch the teacher navigate through the OTTs via a projector or other classroom viewing resource. Then, each student can have hands-on practice with the online Sample Item Sets in the OTTs, ideally using the device they will use during testing.

Where are my students now in relation to grade-level standards?

Within 48 hours of completed Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark tests being submitted, score reports are available on the Dynamic Score Reporting Site (DSRS) through the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

New for Fall 2021: Overall content scores are now reported as scale scores, which allows direct and fair comparisons of student performance. Over the 2021-2022 school year, the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments are transitioning from reporting raw score (points earned out of points possible) to scale score for the overall content area. Anticipating a more typical, non-pandemic school year, the OEAA expects to work with educators during Summer 2022 to establish performance or achievement levels for these assessments.

The score reports will show what the student knows and can do in relation to the current grade-level standards.

- **Individual Student Report (ISR)** – (separated by content area) provides detailed information on individual students in the Content Area Scale Score Summary and the Content Area Domain Summary
- **Student Roster** – (separated by content area) provides a list of students by Overall Scale Score, Standard Error, Points Earned by assessment category, and domain subtotal by grade, content, domains, and categories
- **Domain Analysis Report** – (separated by content area) provides a list of selected students displayed in a Content Area Scale Score Table and Domain Performance Tables

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Schools that administered the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments in Fall, Winter, or Spring 2020-21 can access the previous year's reports to see how well their students mastered the prior grade-level standards.

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Student-Level Reports Available

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Student Level Reports for the Fall 2021 administration are now available in the Dynamic Reporting System through the OEAA Secure Site. Reports are available within 48 hours of students completing all portions of a content area test.

Over the 2021-2022 school year, the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments are transitioning from reporting raw score (points earned out of points possible) to scale score for overall content area reporting. Anticipating a more "typical" school year this year, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability expects to work with educators next summer to establish performance or achievement levels for these assessments.

Available reports include:

- **Domain Analysis Report** – Separated by content area, the domain report provides a list of selected students displays a Content Area Scale Score Table and Domain Performance Tables.
- **Individual Student Report** – Separated by content area, the ISR provides detailed information on individual students in the Content Area Scale Score Summary and the Content Area Domain Summary. The Content Area Scale Score Summary gives scale score for the overall content area. The Content Area Domain

Summary will show raw scores - that is, points earned out of total points possible - for each domain.

- **Student Roster Report** – Separated by content area, the student roster provides a list of students' Overall Scale Score, Standard Error, Points Earned by assessment category, and domain subtotal. The Student Roster Report CSV export file is currently being updated to include the scale score and standard error and will be available next week.

To view your school or district reports, go to the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) and select Reports, then Dynamic Score Reports in the drop-down menu. For help in accessing and navigating the Dynamic Score Reporting Site, refer to the Dynamic Score Reporting User Guide, located on the [Early Literacy and Mathematics web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) (www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) under the Reporting section.

It's Time to Ensure School and District Contacts are Updated in the Educational Entity Master (EEM)

The start of a new school year is the time to take a moment to review your district and school information in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) and to verify that any needed changes or updates have been made. District and school information—including grade levels serviced, addresses, and contacts—is pulled from the [EEM](http://www.michigan.gov/eem) (www.michigan.gov/eem) for various Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site functions and assessment communications, for both public and nonpublic schools.

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Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

It is important to keep this information accurate and up to date. While spring testing may seem a long way off, assessment vendors will begin communicating directly to school and district coordinators in the very near future.

Each public school district has at least one authorized user who can make updates to the EEM for the district and schools within the district. Review your district and school information in the EEM and submit any changes or updates to your authorized district person. Nonpublic schools should contact nonpublicschools@michigan.gov or call 517-241-5385 to request updates to the EEM.

To prevent missing critical information from being missed, all updates should be done as soon as possible. Names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses for each contact type must be verified.

Test materials are sent to the address associated with the test coordinator. Expect communications starting in early fall for the College Board assessments (SAT and PSAT), ACT WorkKeys, WIDA, and the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments. It is especially important to verify the following contact types and make any needed changes in the EEM. Note: While EEM will allow multiple contacts for a single role or contact type, OEAA will use only the most current contact listed.

Contact Type	District Level	School Level
Superintendent	X	
Principal		X
District Assessment Coordinator	X	
Early Literacy and Math Benchmark Coordinator	X	X
English Learner Assessment Coordinator	X	X
MI-Access Coordinator	X	X
M-STEP Coordinator	X	X
PSAT Grade 8 Test Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 8 Backup Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 8 Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 9 Test Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 10 Test Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 9/10 Backup Coordinator		X
PSAT Grade 9/10 Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator		X
SAT Test Coordinator		X
SAT Backup Test Coordinator		X
SAT Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator		X
School Accountability Contact (used for accountability communications)	X	X
Technology Director	X	X
WorkKeys Test Coordinator		X

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If you do not know who your authorized EEM user is and you are a user of the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure), you can locate the name and contact information on the District and School Contact page of the Secure Site. The contact types listed are also available on the District and School Contact page. However, the page does not contain addresses for the contact types, which is important information and must be verified directly in the EEM.

If you are not familiar with the EEM and how to access the district or school information to verify, you can view a [short video](https://youtu.be/LpvZyYzzSxo) (<https://youtu.be/LpvZyYzzSxo>) on YouTube.

Smarter Balance Tools for Teachers

Smarter Balance's Tools for Teachers digital platform is a rich resource created by teachers with materials, activities, and lessons that can be used to improve student learning. Resources within Tools for Teachers include strategies for instruction, accessibility, formative assessment, professional learning, and more. The tools can easily be filtered by resource type, grade, subject (English language arts or mathematics), claim, target, and content standard.

Michigan educators need a DRC INSIGHT Portal account to access Tools for Teachers through the DRC INSIGHT Portal. All users with access will be automatically assigned to the 2021–2022 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments within the DRC INSIGHT Portal based on the previous year's Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. Sites then have the flexibility to add additional users with the Tools for Teachers permission to the DRC INSIGHT Portal.

Users with the Tools for Teachers permission can access Tools for Teachers by signing into their DRC INSIGHT Portal account and selecting the My Applications > Tools for Teachers link. The user will be automatically directed to the Tools for Teachers home page.

Tools for Teachers Resources:

- [What Is Tools for Teachers?](https://youtu.be/YI6bM_3qCos) (https://youtu.be/YI6bM_3qCos)
- [Tools for Teachers—Demonstration](https://youtu.be/jPSTH7vM37s) (<https://youtu.be/jPSTH7vM37s>)

For more information on using the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments or Tools for Teachers, contact Christi Linton at clinton@datarecognitioncorp.com or Ryan Nelson at rnelson@datarecognitioncorp.com.



Reminders

2020-2021 Graduation Rate Appeals Window

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) has opened the 2020-2021 Graduation Rate Appeals Window in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). Appealable Graduation Rates were published in the Graduation and Dropout (GAD) application on August 2, 2021.

CEPI sent communication to all schools and districts; however, we are following up on that communication to stress the importance of ensuring graduation rate data are carefully reviewed and that any necessary corrections are made now.

Graduation rates are an important part of accountability calculations. If you have not already done so, take advantage of the opportunity to review and potentially appeal your graduation rate data for the 2020-2021 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 only be appealed during the graduate rate appeals window in the MSDS through September 15, 2021.

It is imperative that you review your graduation rate data during the appeals window; these data will impact 2021-2022 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 time to review these data now 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 webpage 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 message to CEPI customer support at CEPI@michigan.gov. Include your name, telephone number (including area code and extension), and school/district name along with your message.

CB College Board Corner

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

Questions about Fall SAT, PSAT 8/9, or PSAT 10?

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

WHAT'S NEW

College Board Fall 2021 Assessment Webinars Available Online

College Board conducted webinars this week about the Fall 2021 ordering process through local intermediate school districts and Michigan Virtual University. Recordings of this webinar will be posted to the MDE websites (www.michigan.gov/mme and www.michigan.gov/psat) by September 10, 2021.

REMINDERS

Important Information Regarding the Fall 2021 SAT, PSAT/NMSQT Assessments

The accommodations deadline for Fall 2021 SAT and PSAT/NMSQT was August 24. Submission by the deadline guaranteed a review by the October test dates if documentation was required to be submitted. As a reminder, the SSD Online site remains open. If you missed the deadline, you can submit your request as soon as possible. Your request may go through the school verification processes and be approved within a few days, depending on the request being made.

NOTE: The test ordering site will not indicate that the Michigan Department of Education will be paying for the assessments this fall. More information will be available soon about the invoicing process.

Schools must have a Level 2 AI Code to order assessments in the College Board test ordering site. If you are receiving an error indicating you cannot order assessments, it is because your school only has a Level 1 AI Code.

The quickest way to convert your Level 1 AI Code to a Level 2 AI Code is to complete the [online form](https://aiform.cds-prod.collegeboard.org) (<https://aiform.cds-prod.collegeboard.org>).

The process usually takes approximately five days.

- All Fall 2021 assessments must be ordered in the [College Board Test Ordering Site](http://ordering.collegeboard.org) (<http://ordering.collegeboard.org>). **Do not order assessments for Spring 2022 in the Test Ordering Site.**
- PSAT 8/9 can be administered digitally or in the paper/pencil mode. PSAT/NMSQT and SAT are paper/pencil only assessments.
- Cohorts of students can be flexibly scheduled for testing on any of the available test dates for PSAT 8/9 and SAT School Day.
- Schools can choose two of the three designated testing dates to administer PSAT/NMSQT. However, if schools want to offer the Saturday option, they must also offer one of the other weekday options.
- Students in grades 10 and 11 can take the PSAT/NMSQT in the same testing room, if necessary.

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- Schools can start testing earlier and/or later in the day than usual and split their students into different testing groups on a single day. All testing must start before the first group to test completes testing. In other words, no group of students can begin testing after another group has completed the test.
- All SAT test books must be returned to the College Board.
- PSAT/NMSQT test books administered on Saturday, October 16 must be returned to College Board.
- All other test books can be securely stored and returned to students when scores are released.
- College Board does not approve accommodations for PSAT 8/9 in the fall. Desired accommodations can be ordered and administered, as needed, by the school. Approvals are required in SSD Online for testing in Spring 2022.

Important Dates

September 2021

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 28, 2021

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

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 29, 2021

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

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