



State Assessments

Michigan has a system for measuring student achievement through statewide assessments. State assessments are aligned with Michigan's [state content standards](#), and outline learning expectations approved by [Michigan's State Board of Education](#). Content standards indicate what students should know at each grade and be able to do upon leaving high school and moving into the next level of learning. State assessments are required under the [Michigan State School Aid Act](#) and the federal law, the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#).

Visit the [MDE website](#) for more information about state assessments.

State Assessments and Measuring Progress

Every year, state assessments measure progress toward learning defined content standards or other technical or college-readiness goals for all Michigan students in public schools. An alternate assessment is available for students with an individualized education program (IEP) who have the most significant cognitive disabilities. If the IEP Team determines general assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations, students may be eligible to take the [MI-Access](#).

Requirements for MI-Access

- IEP teams are required to follow [defined guidelines](#) for taking the MI-Access versus general state level assessments.
- [Alternate content expectations](#) for English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies should only be considered when students are working on alternate content expectations, with modifications to the general education curriculum.
- MI-Access is designed for students with the most significant and complex cognitive (intellectual) disabilities with adaptive behavior needs.

Another assessment provided is the [World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment \(WIDA\)](#). The WIDA Access and WIDA Alternate Access are state assessments given annually to every student in grades K-12 who have been identified as English learners (ELs).

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Why Student Assessments are Important

- Schools are required by federal law to test at least 95 percent of students each year to assess student learning in certain grade levels and subjects. (See The [Assessment Overview Grades 3-12 table](#) on the following page for more information.)
- Participation in state assessments is very important. State assessments provide information to schools and to the state about the level to which students are able to meet the state standards. Assessment results are used to inform the need for instructional and curricular changes. State assessments also provide information on how well schools are teaching students compared to other schools in Michigan, other states, and other countries. This provides a better understanding of the areas of success and what support and resources would be helpful for students and schools that need them most.
- State assessments cannot measure everything important to each individual student, but assessments can measure how much a student knows related to state content standards. This means how much a child should know by grade level in primary learning areas such as mathematics and science.

Accommodations for State Assessments

There are numerous [supports and accommodations](#) available which can be provided to students for taking general state assessments including the M-STEP, PSAT, SAT, WIDA, MME, and WorkKeys. Students who are taking MI-Access may also need accommodations. Examples of accommodations are longer time on tests, having tests read aloud, support in other languages, scribing, and text-to-speech.

Accommodations on the state assessments should match accommodations provided on a daily basis in the classroom. There should be no new accommodations provided just for state assessments.



Remember

Accommodations assist with **how** the student learns and accesses the general education curriculum (i.e. longer time on a test) without changing grade-specific curriculum. Modifications change **what** is learned (i.e. reduced number of words on a spelling test).



Assessment Overview Grades 3-12

Assessment	Overview		
The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)	Grades 3-7 ELA, mathematics	Grade 5 ELA, mathematics, science, social studies	Grade 8 Science, social studies
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)	Grade 8-9 ELA, mathematics	Grade 10 ELA, mathematics, preparation for SAT	
Michigan Merit Examination (MME)	Grade 11	SAT Essay (SAT prep) ELA, mathematics M-STEP Science, social studies	Work Skills Assessment ACT WorkKeys
World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)	Grades K-12 ELA	Assessments conducted annually	
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	Grade 11 ELA, mathematics		
MI-Access	Grades K-12	Provided at the same time as the statewide general assessment (M-STEP)	

Resources

Michigan Department of Education:

- [MI-Access](#)
- [Complaint or Allegation of Misadministration](#)
- [Guide to State Assessments](#)
- [What It Is, What it Means, and What It Offers](#)
[Flyer](#)
- [Supports and Accommodations Guidance](#)
[Document](#)



[Michigan Alliance for Families:](#)
[Statewide Assessment](#)