



# SPOTLIGHT

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT

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March 12, 2026

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**Assessment Questions:** [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov)  
**Accountability Questions:** [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov)  
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## NEWS INFO

### M-STEP Online Test Administration Window Extended One Week

A one-week extension of the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) online testing window has been approved, due to extreme winter weather over the past eight weeks across Michigan. **All other assessment windows remain unchanged.** School closures during this period of inclement weather might have disrupted instruction and the preparation protocols for assessment administration.

**The original testing window of April 6 through May 15, 2026, has been extended through May 22, 2026.**

The [Spring 2026 Testing Schedule for Summative Assessments](https://go.mi.gov/ksss92050) (https://go.mi.gov/ksss92050) has been updated to reflect this change. Note: This one-week extension applies **only** to the online M-STEP testing window.

Several documents have been updated to reflect this extension:

- [2026 Guide to State Assessments](https://go.mi.gov/j0xxm2051)  
(https://go.mi.gov/j0xxm2051)
- [M-STEP Test Administration Manual](https://go.mi.gov/5in0y2052)  
(https://go.mi.gov/5in0y2052)
- M-STEP Important Dates Documents on the [Assessment Calendars web page](https://go.mi.gov/10v9o2012)  
(https://go.mi.gov/10v9o2012)
  - [M-STEP Important Dates \(PDF\)](https://go.mi.gov/3719p2053)  
(https://go.mi.gov/3719p2053)
  - [List of Important Dates \(Excel\)](https://go.mi.gov/co8fs2054)  
(https://go.mi.gov/co8fs2054)
- [M-STEP Paper/Pencil Directions and Online Test Directions and Manual](https://go.mi.gov/rqy1w2055)  
(https://go.mi.gov/rqy1w2055)
  - **Note:** The posted Test Administrator’s Manual and Directions documents have been updated; however, printed materials will still show the original dates. A one-page flyer has been added to Initial Material Orders to reflect the window extension dates.

**Questions or Comments?** Contact MDE OEAA  
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## NEWS INFO

### NexSys Benchmark Reporting and Funding Application – Next Steps

The 2025-26 NexSys Benchmark Reporting and Funding application is closed. The deadline for application submission was Friday, January 30, 2026.

To be eligible for a grant award, districts must have achieved **all** of the following tasks by the posted deadlines:

- Administer benchmark assessments to all K-8 students within the first nine (9) weeks of the 2025-26 academic year
- Administer NWEA Map, Curriculum Associates i-Ready, or Renaissance Star benchmark assessments in reading and/or math to students in any grade K-8
- Commit to administer benchmark assessments to all K-8 students in the last marking period of the 2025-26 academic year
- Commit to administering the same benchmark assessments to all K-8 students in the spring as administered in the fall
- Report assessment results to parents/legal guardians within 30 days of each test administration
- Report NWEA MAP, i-Ready, and/or Star data correctly to MiDataHub within 30 days of each test administration
  - Fall assessment results were to have been provided no later than December 19, 2025.
  - Commit to provide spring assessment results no later than June 12, 2026.
- Report the mode of instruction correctly to MiDataHub within 30 days of each test administration
  - Fall Mode of Instruction data was to have been provided no later than December 19, 2025.
  - Commit to Spring Mode of Instruction data to be provided no later than June 12, 2026.
- Apply for funding through the NexSys system by the application deadline of January 30, 2026

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## NEWS INFO

### (NexSys Benchmark Reporting and Funding Application continues...)

Districts unable to correctly complete all tasks by the deadlines were denied a grant award. If an applicant wants to verify the reason for the denial, re-open the application and select **Notes** in the tool menu of the application (located on the left-hand side).

### Grant Awards

Districts that successfully completed the tasks are eligible for an award. Awards are calculated based on an equal amount per membership pupil in grades K-8 for each eligible district. [Section 104h of PA 15 of 2025](https://legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-388-1704H) (<https://legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-388-1704H>) provides \$11.5 million for grant awards. Awards are contingent upon State Superintendent approval.

### NexSys Final Budget

Final award amounts for successful districts will be loaded into NexSys budgets for successful districts. The initial budgets in NexSys were for preliminary amounts until final awards could be determined. Districts will be sent a notification for Modifications Required to resubmit the budget, based on the awarded dollar amount (in most cases, the amount is a little higher than the preliminary budget amount).

**Note:** Be sure to submit modified budgets by the end of the school year (June 30, 2026) to receive a 2026 grant payment.

After districts send **Modifications Submitted**, the Michigan Department of Education will review and approve final budgets. Payments will be made to districts in the State Aid Management System (SAMS) once per month following the regular state school aid payment schedule.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov) or call 877-560-8378, option 4.

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## NEWS INFO

### Available Now: M-STEP Test Administration Training Slide Decks



All three chapters of the 2026 M-STEP Test Administration Training slide decks for paper/pencil and online assessments are now available. The training consists of Chapter 1: Before Testing, Chapter 2: During Testing, and Chapter 3: After Testing.

The training slide decks are posted on the [M-STEP web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep)) under the **Assessment Training** and **Resources for Educators** sections.

The slide decks are also found at [M-STEP Test Administration Training](https://go.mi.gov/c0j6o2075) (<https://go.mi.gov/c0j6o2075>).

- Chapter 1 discusses the tasks to be done **before** the M-STEP administration
- Chapter 2 discusses the tasks to be done **during** the M-STEP administration
- Chapter 3 discusses the tasks to be done **after** the M-STEP administration

Recordings of these presentations will be available soon. Watch the Spotlight newsletter for details.

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## NEWS INFO

### Updated: MI-Access Functional Independence Online Tools Training



The Online Tools Training (OTT) for the MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) assessment has been updated. The [OTT program](https://go.mi.gov/mhvh92070) (https://go.mi.gov/mhvh92070), allows students to interact with an online experience that will look and function the way the test engine will function for the MI-Access FI online assessments, which will be administered to students starting next month.

This “practice test” OTT is designed for students to become familiar with the functionality of the test engine, to learn how to use the various tools available, and to practice interacting with the system by answering sample test questions. The training program contains instructions on how to use the available tools within the test engine, as well as practice questions of varying types (independent questions, questions involving graphics and/or maps, listening item questions, and passage-based questions).

All the questions on the updated 2026 FI OTT will be presented in the format students are used to seeing for MI-Access Functional Independence – that is, multiple choice questions with three answer choices.

The MI-Access OTT now provides an answer key for each practice test level (grades 3–8 and grade 11), [available here](https://go.mi.gov/rjdbp2093) (https://go.mi.gov/rjdbp2093). The key gives information about each question, including the part of the test the item is aligned with, its position number, content area, grade level, and alternate content expectation, as well as the correct answer and a brief description of what educational standard is being measured.

Getting students engaged with the Online Tools Training is a good way for them to get used to the testing environment, so that they are not learning the online system on their first day of testing.

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## NEWS INFO



### Mark your Calendars Now for the 2026-27 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Administration Windows

Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark test administration windows for the 2026-27 academic year are listed below:

Administration Window	Duration of Window	2026-27 Dates
Fall 2026	10 weeks	August 17 - October 23, 2026
Winter 2027	5 weeks	January 4 - February 5, 2027
Spring 2027	8 weeks	April 5 – May 28, 2027

The Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessments are available for English language arts and mathematics in kindergarten through second grade. Individual student reports are available within 48 hours of students completing both parts of an assessment. For more information about how your school or district can participate in the Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark assessment, see the [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark web page](https://go.mi.gov/1e87x2076) (<https://go.mi.gov/1e87x2076>) to view these resources:

- [Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments Test Administration Manual](https://go.mi.gov/57g3p2077) (<https://go.mi.gov/57g3p2077>)
- [Interpretive Guide to Early Literacy and Mathematics Reports](https://go.mi.gov/gdfdb2078) (<https://go.mi.gov/gdfdb2078>)

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## NEWS INFO

### Save the Date: Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Webinar, March 24, 2026

Are you looking for:

- A balanced assessment system that truly supports learning?
- A new lens to analyze instructional practices?
- A clearer alignment between assessment and instruction?

Smarter Balanced, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, invites you to dream big with us!

The resources of the **Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and Tools for Teachers** are:

- flexible and easy to integrate into your classroom
- aligned to Michigan's content standards
- built on the same testing engine you already know and use for M-STEP
- equipped with item analysis tools
- designed to create a cohesive system for educators

Join us for an exciting and informative webinar Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments and Tools for Teachers on **Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** A link to the webinar will be provided in next week's Spotlight.

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## NEWS INFO



### **Applications Open for Michigan Educators to Join 2026–27 Formative Assessment Program**

The Michigan Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2026–27 cohort of the [Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators \(FAME\) Program](https://famemichigan.org) (<https://famemichigan.org>), a professional learning initiative designed to help teachers integrate formative assessment practices into daily classroom instruction.

Educators interested in serving as learning team coaches can apply through [the program's online application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FAME_NewCoachApplication) ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FAME\\_NewCoachApplication](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FAME_NewCoachApplication)). The deadline to apply is **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**.

The FAME program helps educators develop strategies that use ongoing evidence of student learning to guide instruction and support student progress. Research shows effective use of formative assessment can significantly improve student learning outcomes, increase engagement, and strengthen students' ability to take ownership of their learning.

Under the program model, a group of educators forms a FAME Learning Team within their school or district. One educator serves as the team's coach and applies to the state on behalf of the group to participate in the next cohort.

Formative assessment is defined by the Council of Chief State School Officers as “a planned, ongoing process used by students and teachers during learning and teaching to elicit and use evidence of student learning to improve understanding of intended learning outcomes and support students to become more self-directed learners.”

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## NEWS INFO

### (FAME continued...)

Educators who have participated in the program say the experience provides practical strategies and meaningful professional growth.

“The FAME project is the biggest contributor to my professional growth,” one recent participant said. Another educator described the program as “an invaluable asset to our learning team,” adding that it supports growth for both teachers and students.

Teachers also report that the program provides practical tools and a professional support network as they implement formative assessment practices in their classrooms.

More information about the program is available at [FAME Michigan](https://famemichigan.org) (<https://famemichigan.org>). Questions can be directed to FAME Program Manager Mary Helen Diegel at [DiegelM@mMichigan.gov](mailto:DiegelM@mMichigan.gov).

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## NEWS INFO

### Share Your Work at the 2027 Michigan School Testing Conference

Do you have a strategy, initiative, or lesson learned about assessment that others could benefit from?

The Michigan School Testing Conference (MSTC) is now accepting session proposals for the 2027 conference, and we invite practitioners across Michigan to share their work.

For only the second time in MSTC's 65-year history, conference participants can propose workshops and clinic sessions.

**The 2027 MSTC Conference will be held February 9–11, 2027, at the Sheraton Ann Arbor.**

Session options include:

- 3- or 6-hour workshops (Tuesday, February 9)
- 75-minute clinic sessions (February 10–11)

We are looking for sessions that share practical ideas, lessons learned, and promising practices that can support colleagues across the state.

- Proposal deadline: **March 20, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **May, 2026**

All presenters are asked to register for the conference at a reduced presenter rate.

[Submit your proposal here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WHV7FB3) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WHV7FB3>)

We hope you'll consider contributing to the learning community that makes MSTC such a valuable professional gathering.

For questions, please contact Ellen Vorenkamp, MSTC Conference Director, by email [Vorenke83@gmail.com](mailto:Vorenke83@gmail.com) or by phone 810-923-0327.

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## COLLEGE BOARD INFO

### Now Available: School Test Coordinator, Part 2 Webinar Materials



The following resources from the School Test Coordinator, Part 2 webinar are now available:

- [Spring 2026 Michigan SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator Training, Part 2 \(Video\)](https://go.mi.gov/5tswx2073) (https://go.mi.gov/5tswx2073)
- [Spring 2026 Michigan SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator Training, Part 2 \(Slide Deck\)](https://go.mi.gov/i89in2072) (https://go.mi.gov/i89in2072)

All College Board webinar recordings and slide decks are posted on the [Michigan Merit Exam \(MME\)](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) and the [PSAT](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat) web pages. Also see the [MME, PSAT, Grade 8 Test Administration Training webpage](https://go.mi.gov/9fi9a2074) (https://go.mi.gov/9fi9a2074) for all trainings and resources.

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## COLLEGE BOARD INFO

### Important Dates

- [SAT List of Important Dates](https://go.mi.gov/z7uv11876) (https://go.mi.gov/z7uv11876)
- [PSAT List of Important Dates](https://go.mi.gov/dykun1877) (https://go.mi.gov/dykun1877)

Item	Date	Description
Paper Test Shipments begin for students with accommodations/schools with online waiver	Tuesday, March 17, 2026	All materials must be returned as directed in your shipment’s instructions. Please note that essay responses are not transcribed into Bluebook.
Required Online Training Modules for Test Staff Completion Deadline	Monday, March 30, 2026	School test administration staff (coordinators, proctors, and monitors) access online training through their College Board professional account
Student Readiness Check	Complete 1 – 2 weeks before intended test date	Ensures device readiness and that student’s registration and accommodations (if applicable) appear correctly in Bluebook, with time to correct as necessary  Also provides opportunity for students to opt into other services if desired, request free score sends, and gain familiarity with Bluebook and practice test opportunities
Testing Window	Monday, April 6, 2026 through Thursday, April 30, 2026	Students may be tested any school day within the window. Please test early in the window to allow sufficient time for makeups and re-tests.

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## COLLEGE BOARD INFO

### Reminder: Conduct Student Readiness Check 1 – 2 Weeks Before Testing



The Student Readiness Check (previously called the Digital Readiness Check), which is conducted by having students log into Bluebook on their testing device using their sign-in ticket credentials from Test Day Toolkit, ensures:

- testing devices are functioning properly for Bluebook testing
- students' names and accommodations are accurately reflected in Bluebook
- students are familiar with Bluebook's features before test day

See the [Spotlight newsletter – March 5 issue, page 9](https://go.mi.gov/wrorj2071) (<https://go.mi.gov/wrorj2071>) for additional information.

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## COLLEGE BOARD INFO

### Training Materials, Publications, and Resources



To support the Michigan Department of Education’s Spring 2026 implementation of SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9, College Board hosted a series of informative webinars, all of which have been recorded and are available on the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) [Test Administration Training web page](https://go.mi.gov/u6ojx2008) (<https://go.mi.gov/u6ojx2008>).

College Board’s Spring 2026 School Test Coordinator Manual and the Proctor Manual are available, along with additional Spring 2026 guides and materials on the [OEAA SAT Publications web page](https://go.mi.gov/gp66m2009) (<https://go.mi.gov/gp66m2009>). School Test Coordinators must read both manuals, while Proctors are required to read the Proctor Manual.

#### Resources:

- If you have questions or need support, please contact the Michigan Educator Helpline at 866-870-3127 or email [MichiganAdministratorSupport@CollegeBoard.org](mailto:MichiganAdministratorSupport@CollegeBoard.org).
- Refer to the [Spotlight Newsletter](http://www.Michigan.gov/MDE-Spotlight) ([www.Michigan.gov/MDE-Spotlight](http://www.Michigan.gov/MDE-Spotlight)) for weekly updates for Spring 2026 testing.

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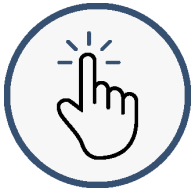


## COLLEGE BOARD INFO

### Open Office (Half) Hours Happening Every Thursday

**When:** Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** [Register here](https://go.mi.gov/9cuy01944) (https://go.mi.gov/9cuy01944) to attend on Zoom



These optional sessions are an opportunity to ask College Board any questions regarding spring testing. Session topics are listed below by week in consideration of deadlines and activities with which you will be engaged.

Topic/Date	Open Office Highlights
<b>Conducting Student Readiness Check</b> March 19, 2026 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When</li> <li>• What / How (Screen-by-Screen)</li> <li>• Benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Test Administrations</b> March 26, 2026 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary (including makeup testing)</li> <li>• Re-test</li> </ul>
<b>Bluebook</b> April 2, 2026 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Experience on Test Day (Screen-by-Screen)</li> </ul>
<b>General Q&amp;A / Past Topic Reprise</b> April 9, 2026 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Readiness Check</li> <li>• Test Administrations: Primary/Re-test</li> <li>• Bluebook: Student test day experience</li> <li>• Worried about missed opportunities: Accommodations, SDMS/TDTK, Training</li> </ul>
<b>Drop-in Open Q&amp;A</b> April 16, 2026 2:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open questions and answers</li> </ul>

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## WIN LEARNING INFO

### Paper Test Administration Manual

The Test Administration Manual (TAM) for paper testing is now available. This document includes detailed information about testing guidelines, accommodations, handling secure testing materials, and instructions for testing staff. The TAM is posted in the following locations:

- [WIN Resource Center](https://www.winresourcecenter.com/files/pdf/MI-Resources/2026%20MI%20Paper%20Testing%20Administration%20Manual%203.4.2026.pdf) (https://www.winresourcecenter.com/files/pdf/MI-Resources/2026%20MI%20Paper%20Testing%20Administration%20Manual%203.4.2026.pdf)
  - [Michigan Merit Exam \(MME\) web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme)
- 

### WIN Wednesday Office Hours

The next WIN Wednesday Office Hours will be held on March 18 at 10:00 a.m. The session will focus on accommodations and creating test session groups in the online assessment portal. Join the session here – [WIN Wednesday Office Hours – March 18](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2635179712237?p=LmjtKpy79ZXGbeaak7) (https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2635179712237?p=LmjtKpy79ZXGbeaak7).

These sessions will be held at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday through the end of the Spring 2026 test administration window (April 6-May 1). The final WIN Wednesday will be April 29. The goal of these office hours is to allow you to ask questions of the WIN Learning staff to better prepare for administering the WIN Work Readiness Assessments.

A full schedule of upcoming WIN Wednesday sessions can be found on the [Michigan Merit Exam \(MME\) web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme).

**Questions or Comments?** Contact MDE OEAA  
**Assessment Questions:** [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov)  
**Accountability Questions:** [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov)  
**Website:** [www.Michigan.gov/OEAA](http://www.Michigan.gov/OEAA) | **Phone:** 877-560-8378



## WIN LEARNING INFO

### WIN Test Administrator Training Template



We are pleased to share the newly developed [WIN Work Readiness Assessment Training Template](https://go.mi.gov/4tcbs1995) (<https://go.mi.gov/4tcbs1995>), designed to support districts in delivering clear, consistent, and well-structured training for staff. This resource was created in response to field feedback requesting more comprehensive materials, visual examples, and step-by-step guidance to assist with local training efforts.

The slide deck includes:

- a detailed overview of the WIN online assessment
- updated screenshots illustrating key navigation and processes
- scenario-based questions to reinforce practical understanding
- step-by-step instructions to support both new and experienced staff
- flexible content that can be used in full or adapted based on local needs

The intent of this template is to streamline and strengthen training across districts, ensuring staff have the information and tools they need for successful implementation. Feel free to use and edit the slides based on the training needs of your Test Administrators.

**Note:** Optional paper-based testing slides are included at the end for the limited number of districts that require them.

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### WIN Learning Support

For technical questions or issues identified during the survey process, districts may contact:

- WIN Learning Support: [Support@winlearning.com](mailto:Support@winlearning.com) or 888-717-9461 (option 2)
- MDE OEAA Tech Support: [MDE-OEAA@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@Michigan.gov) or 877-560-8378 (option 2)

**Questions or Comments?** Contact MDE OEAA  
**Assessment Questions:** [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov)  
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## **TRAINING & CONFERENCES**

### **Upcoming Trainings & Conferences**

#### **Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Webinar**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

- Meeting Link available in March 19 issue of Spotlight
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### **Resources from Past Trainings & Conferences**

#### **Spring 2026 M-STEP District/Building Coordinator Training**

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

- [Meeting Recording](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AjTjYx6nMSooyS5e9loO09SALTN-Dh36/view?usp=sharing)  
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AjTjYx6nMSooyS5e9loO09SALTN-Dh36/view?usp=sharing>)
- [Slide Deck](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14PFohHtXyrgNw6UkZPIMrHLA8zbnvq9q/view?usp=sharing)  
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14PFohHtXyrgNw6UkZPIMrHLA8zbnvq9q/view?usp=sharing>)

#### **Spring 2026 MI-Access District/Building Coordinator Training**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- [Meeting Recording](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NnKviPSfAcccAz8li_bj9g_zl6Ybmgz9/view)  
([https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NnKviPSfAcccAz8li\\_bj9g\\_zl6Ybmgz9/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NnKviPSfAcccAz8li_bj9g_zl6Ybmgz9/view))
- [Slide Deck](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ejxZ8frKQuRgaS554j5j9C8CqPehDE8E/view?usp=sharing)  
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ejxZ8frKQuRgaS554j5j9C8CqPehDE8E/view?usp=sharing>)

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## IMPORTANT DATES

The [Assessment Calendars web page](https://go.mi.gov/10v9o2012) (<https://go.mi.gov/10v9o2012>) makes it easy to find important state assessment dates in the format that works best for you. The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability provides calendars in Excel, PDF, and Google Calendar formats so you can access and use them however you prefer.

Start Date	Assessment/Task	End Date
Ongoing	<b>M-STEP and MI-Access</b> Request alternate online testing engine access outside of the standard testing hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days. <a href="https://go.mi.gov/039g81901">Alternate INSIGHT Availability Request Form</a> ( <a href="https://go.mi.gov/039g81901">https://go.mi.gov/039g81901</a> )	<b>Closes Today</b> Thursday, March 12, 2026
Ongoing	<b>WIN Work Readiness</b> WIN Career Readiness System available for test administration tasks	Thursday, April 30, 2026
Ongoing	<b>M-STEP</b> Create/Manage Online Test Sessions and assign Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Friday, May 22, 2026
Ongoing	<b>MI-Access</b> Create/Manage Online Test Sessions and assign Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Thursday, May 22, 2026
Ongoing	<b>Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments</b> Create/Manage Online Test Sessions and assign Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Friday, May 29, 2026

(continues – page 22)

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Start Date	Assessment/Task	End Date
Monday, March 23, 2026	<b>WIN Work Readiness</b> Materials arrive in schools	Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Monday, March 23, 2026	<b>M-STEP and MI-Access</b> Materials arrive in schools All Grades/All Content Areas	Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Monday, March 23, 2026	<b>M-STEP</b> Multiplication Chart Accommodation Request Window by 5:00 p.m.	Friday, May 15, 2026
Monday, March 30, 2026	<b>WIN Work Readiness</b> Materials arrive in schools – alternate delivery date requested	Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Monday, March 30, 2026	<b>M-STEP and MI-Access</b> Materials arrive in schools – alternate delivery date requested – All Grades/All Content Areas	Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Thursday, April 2, 2026	<b>M-STEP/WIN Work Readiness Additional Material Order Window</b> All Grades/All Content Areas	Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Thursday, April 2, 2026	<b>MI-Access Additional Material Order Window</b> All Grades	Tuesday, May 19, 2026

**Questions or Comments?** Contact MDE OEAA  
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## REMINDERS

### Get to Know MiLearn



**MiLearn** (Michigan Linked Educational Assessment Reporting Network) is a **free digital reporting system** from the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability. It delivers state assessment results directly through a district's Student Information System (SIS), giving students, families, and educators quick access to data without requiring separate logins or platforms.

Additional details are available in the [MiLearn: Expanding Access to State Assessment Results document](https://go.mi.gov/9syqa1997) (<https://go.mi.gov/9syqa1997>).

For questions or onboarding support, contact: Tim Davis, MiLearn Onboarding Specialist, at [DavisT54@Michigan.gov](mailto:DavisT54@Michigan.gov)

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### Science Educators Invited to Participate in Science M-STEP Committees



Science educators have several opportunities to contribute to the development and quality of the Michigan science M-STEP by serving on assessment committees throughout 2026. Educators may participate in reviewing science test items for content alignment, bias, and sensitivity; writing new stimulus and item clusters aligned to the NGSS 3-Dimensions of Learning; or analyzing data from field-tested items to inform improvement decisions. Committee work takes place between May and July and involves collaboration with fellow educators to ensure fair, rigorous, and high-quality assessments. Stipends are provided for participants' time and expertise.

[Use this link](https://web.cvent.com/survey/6c7780de-c8d8-479f-be93-52b38bfe8721/welcome) (<https://web.cvent.com/survey/6c7780de-c8d8-479f-be93-52b38bfe8721/welcome>) to apply to the Michigan Assessments: Application for Test Development Committee Work today!

Full details are available in the [Spotlight newsletter – January 29 issue](https://go.mi.gov/hzqs71854) (<https://go.mi.gov/hzqs71854>) on page 4.

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## STAY INFORMED

### Subscribe to MDE Newsletters

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and information from the Michigan Department of Education. [Subscribe](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new) (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new) to the *Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability*, *MDE Official Communications*, and *MICIP Continuous Communication* newsletters.

- Archive for [Spotlight on Assessment and Accountability](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight)
- Archive for [MDE Memos](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information/memos) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information/memos)
- Archive for [MICIP Continuous Communication](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/school-performance-supports/micip/micip-continuous-communication) (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/school-performance-supports/micip/micip-continuous-communication)

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## CONTACT US

### OEAA Phone Tree Options

For assistance with assessment or accountability issues, **call 877-560-8378** (select the appropriate option):

**Option 1:** For inquiries related to state assessment policy; the OEAA Secure Site; administration of the M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy and Mathematics; and Accountability Reporting

**Option 2:** For inquiries related to the SAT, PSAT, or WIN Work Readiness testing:

**Option 1:** eligibility to test and the OEAA Secure Site

**Option 2:** administration of the College Board assessments (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, SAT)

**Option 3:** administration of the WIN Work Readiness skills test

**Option 3:** For inquiries related to WIDA, the English Language Learner assessment; Call 866-276-7735 for assistance with the WIDA Screener and the WIDA Secure Portal

**Option 4:** For all other calls

**Option 5:** To report known unethical testing practices by a school on any state assessment

**Option 6:** To repeat these options

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### Mailing Address

Michigan Department of Education  
608 W. Allegan St.  
PO Box 30008  
Lansing, Michigan 48915-0008

**Questions or Comments?** Contact MDE OEAA  
**Assessment Questions:** [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov)  
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