

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of October 14, 2021

- [2021-22 Guide to State Assessments Now Available](#)
- [Benchmark Assessment Fact Sheet and FAQ Now Available](#)
- [Parent Guides and How to Read Your Child's Score Report for M-STEP, Grade 8, and MME – Spanish Versions Now Available](#)
- [Online Testing Waiver Window](#)
- [Writing Skills Field Test: Preparation for Passage-based Writing](#)

Reminders

- [Student Growth and Proficiency Reports for M-STEP, SAT/PSAT and MI-Access FI Now Available](#)

2021-22 Guide to State Assessments Now Available

The [2021-22 Guide to State Assessments](#) is now available on the [Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa). The guide provides an overview of the 2021-22 assessment system overseen by the OEAA, including high-level information on the various assessment programs, testing schedules, and planned changes.

Benchmark Assessment Fact Sheet and FAQ Now Available

The [2021-22 Benchmark Assessment Fact Sheet and FAQ](#) is now available on the [MDE Benchmark Assessments web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-benchmarkassessments). This document provides an overview of the benchmark assessment requirements specified in [Public Act 48, section 104a](#), as well as information on benchmark assessment options, assessing students with disabilities and English learners, reporting requirements, and how to request funding.

Parent Guides and How to Read Your Child's Score Report for M-STEP, Grade 8, and MME – Spanish Versions Now Available

The Spanish versions of the [M-STEP Parent Guides](#) are now available on the [M-STEP web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mstep); select the **Guides to Parent Reports** button at the top of the page. (English versions are also available.) There are separate documents for each grade report for grades 3-7.

These documents provide parents and guardians with important guidance in understanding their student's Parent Report, what their student learned in the assessed grade, and what their student will learn in the current grade.

Arabic versions of these documents are currently under development and will be available soon. Watch the *Spotlight* for updates!

(Continued on next page)

The **MME How to Read Your Child's Score Report** and the **Grade 8 How to Read Your Child's Score Report** are also now available in Spanish. The MME How to Read Your Child's Score Report can be found on the [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) under the Parent/Student Information heading. The Grade 8 How to Read Your Child's Score Report can be found on the [PSAT web page](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat) under the Parent/Student Information heading.

Arabic versions of these documents, designed to help parents interpret the Parent Report, will be available soon.

Online Testing Waiver Window

All schools are expected to administer the Spring 2022 M-STEP, MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), and WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessments online.

However, a small number of school buildings may never be able to test online. These include buildings with no internet access, juvenile justice facilities that do not allow students online, or some center-based special education programs. These schools can submit online waiver request(s) to administer the paper/pencil version of M-STEP, MI-Access FI, and WIDA ACCESS assessments for Spring 2022.

The window to request a waiver through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site will be available **October 18 — November 23, 2021**.

Districts must submit online waiver request(s) by November 23, 2021 to obtain the paper/ pencil materials they will need for assessment administration.

Important Note: Requests for EACH school and EACH assessment must be submitted separately. A school (or building) is the smallest unit that may request an online waiver.

A school may not apply to have only certain grades or content areas take the paper/pencil assessments. Schools that are administering online but have individual students who need to use a paper/ pencil form due to a disability or for another reason—as outlined in the [Supports and Accommodations Guidance Document](#) located on each assessment web page—do not need to request an online waiver. Schools will be able to order paper/pencil materials on the Material Order screens in the OEAA Secure Site to accommodate these individual students.

Process:

Requests for an online waiver must be submitted through the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) by a user who has District Administrator or Nonpublic School Administrator access, using the process detailed in the [Online Waiver Request](#) document on the [Secure Site Training web page](http://www.michigan.gov/secureritetraining) (www.michigan.gov/secureritetraining) under

Miscellaneous.

Writing Skills Field Test: Preparation for Passage-based Writing

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is looking for schools to participate in an M-STEP online Passage-based Writing Field Test, January 3–February 4, 2022.

Why have a stand-alone field test?

Field tests are used to check the adequacy of testing procedures and statistical characteristics of new test items by testing them in the field before they appear on an actual assessment. This test follows the same setup and security as the M-STEP. The field test helps to ensure that the items we are putting on the M-STEP are high quality. And, the more writing exposure your students receive, the more improvement you will see!

Who can participate?

Students in grades 3-8 can participate in field-testing items, written by Michigan authors for Michigan's state assessments.

What is involved?

During the field test, students will read one passage, either literary or informational, from a variety of genres as prescribed by the standards. Students will then answer five multiple-choice questions and respond to a writing prompt, which includes a checklist of components found in a well-written essay. They will not receive a score, but will have an opportunity to prepare for the M-STEP and use the checklist to improve their writing skills in the testing environment.

Where will it take place?

The online field test will take place in your school on computers.

When do I sign up?

Beginning November 15, 2021, go to the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) to Pre-Identify students for testing. For information about how to Pre-ID students for testing, or how to gain access to the Secure Site, go to the [Secure Site Training Site](http://www.michigan.gov/secaasitetraining) (www.michigan.gov/secaasitetraining).



Reminders

Student Growth and Proficiency Reports for M-STEP, SAT/PSAT and MI-Access FI Now Available

The Spring 2021 Student Growth and Proficiency Reports for M-STEP, SAT/PSAT, and MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) are now available in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site through the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

These student-level Student Growth and Proficiency Reports include information on the reported student's overall performance and plots the student's growth and scale score. Growth Target Scores are also plotted on the Growth Score and Scale Score Graph in the report.

Growth scores describe a student's learning over time compared to other students who took the same test and had similar prior test scores. Growth Scores are percentiles ranging from 1 to 99, with 50 being the average; these indicate how many scores in the student's comparison group are below that of the reported student's score. Growth Target Scores, also range from 1 to 99, and represent the amount of growth above or below average the student needs to maintain year-over-year to reach or maintain proficiency by the end of the set number of years.

Growth data is not available for all grades, content areas, or assessments. If a student did not have a valid prior test score, growth data is not available.

M-STEP

- Grade 3 English language arts and mathematics are not included because there is no student growth data in these grades and content areas.
- Grade 5 social studies reports are not included because there is no student growth data in these grades and content areas.
- Student growth data is not available for the M-STEP Science test (any grade) because there are no prior year test scores available.
- Grades 8 and 11 social studies do not include Growth Target (AGP) or Growth Target Timeframe data. This is because AGP/Timeframe scores are projections based on prior year assessment scores. Timeframe projections are for one to three years. Therefore, due to the gap of three years or more between assessments in this content area at these grade levels, the Michigan Department of Education does not report Growth Target data for grades 8 and 11 social studies.

SAT/PSAT

- Students have a Growth and Proficiency Report for Math.
- Students have a Growth and Proficiency Report for Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing.

MI-Access FI/SI/P

- Functional Independence (FI) assessment reports show results only.
- Growth data is not available for Supported Independence (SI) or Participation (P) assessments.

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

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

- PSAT/NMSQT and SAT answer sheets for students who test on October 13 are to be returned by October 14.
- Order any SAT makeup materials for the October 28 test date in the College Board test ordering site; order by October 15.
- Return SAT answer sheets for students who take the test in the accommodated testing window as soon as all students have completed testing.
- All SAT test books must be returned.
- Test books for the October 13 PSAT/NMSQT test date can be securely stored and returned to students once scores are available.
- Test books for the Saturday, October 16 PSAT/NMSQT test date must be returned.
- **SAT and PSAT/NMSQT test books for the October 13 test date cannot be used for the SAT makeup date or for the PSAT/NMSQT alternate date.** Student scores will be invalidated if these test books are used for the wrong date.

REMINDER

Preparations for the Spring 2022 SAT with Essay, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 will begin the first week of November. More information will be available in the October 28 edition of the Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability online newsletter.

- The Essay will be required for all students taking the Michigan-provided SAT in Spring 2022.
- The Spring 2022 SAT with Essay, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 will continue to be administered in the paper/pencil mode.

Off-site testing information will be available in the upcoming October 21 edition of the Spotlight online newsletter. Coordinators will no longer need to indicate where off-site testing will take place, only how many off-site locations are expected to be used.

Make sure students are administered the appropriate Fall 2021 assessment. Students in Grade 9 must only take the PSAT 8/9; those in Grades 10 and 11 must take the PSAT/NMSQT; and Grade 12 students must take the SAT for the administration to be paid for by the Michigan Department of Education. Fifth-year seniors are not eligible to test in Fall 2021.

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Reminder

Updating EEM Contact Information

Make sure that the information for each building/school's "WorkKeys Test Coordinator" is listed correctly in the [Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](http://www.michigan.gov/eem) (www.michigan.gov/eem). This includes the coordinator(s) name, email address, phone number, and mailing address (cannot be a post office box).

ACT uses the information in the EEM to call, send emails, and ship test materials to the Workkeys Test Coordinators. Inaccurate information will result in critical information not being received in a timely manner, key deadlines being overlooked, and delays in the receipt of test materials.

Refer to the September 2, 2021 Spotlight article — [It's Time to Ensure School and District Contacts Are Updated in the Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](#) — for additional information on why this review/update is needed, as well as the list of contacts to be reviewed.

Contacting ACT

If you have questions, you may:

1. contact ACT via the [Contact Us web page](http://www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html)
2. call ACT at 800-553-6244 between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET
 - » standard time: ext. 2800
 - » accommodations: ext. 1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Important Dates

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	

October 2021

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 29, 2021

- Pre-Identification of students in the OEAA Secure Site by 5:00 p.m. 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

Online Testing Waiver

October 18 – November 23, 2021

- Requests for online waiver for the Spring 2022 M-STEP, MI-Access Functional Independence (FI), and WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessments online. Requests must be submitted through the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

WIDA

October 18 – November 23, 2021

- **Online Waiver Window** - request waiver to administer pencil/paper by 5:00 p.m. on November 23 for **WIDA ACCESS - PP**

November 2021

Webinar: New WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

November 2, 2021, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- New WIDA Screener for Kindergarten webinar
[Register for the webinar](#)

Writing Skills Field Test

November 2, 2021– February 4, 2022

- Participate in an M-STEP online Passage-based Writing Field Test. Go to the [OEAA Secure Site](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) to Pre-Identify students for testing.

December 2021

Webinar: Technology Coordinator Training

December 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

- Winter/Spring 2022 Technology Coordinator Training Zoom webinar
[Join the webinar](#)

WIDA Assessment Office Hours

December 2, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Microsoft Teams meetings for educators coordinating or administering the WIDA assessments to ask questions of Michigan Department of Education staff.
[\(Microsoft Teams Link\)](#)

December 9, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Microsoft Teams meetings for educators coordinating or administering the WIDA assessments to ask questions of Michigan Department of Education staff.
[\(Microsoft Teams Link\)](#)

December 16, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Microsoft Teams meetings for educators coordinating or administering the WIDA assessments to ask questions of Michigan Department of Education staff.
[\(Microsoft Teams Link\)](#)

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