

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New

Week of December 10, 2020

- [New MI-Access Scoring Rubric Training](#)
- [1% Cap Waiver Request Public Input](#)
- [Winter Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments \(K-2\)](#)
- [Winter 2021 M-STEP Online Passage-based Writing Field Test](#)
- [2021 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Announcements and Resources](#)
- [NWEA Webinar: How did COVID impact student learning? The data is in](#)
- [Focus on Assessment Literacy](#)
 - » [Early Literacy Assessment Systems: Supporting All Michigan Students \(PreK-20\)](#)

Reminders

- [2020-21 Annual Education Report \(AER\) Preview Available](#)
- [2021 Michigan School Testing Conference](#)

An Update on Spring 2021 Assessment Plans

Please see the linked memo for clarification on Michigan Department of Education's plan on how to handle spring assessments.

[Read the memo](#)

New MI-Access Scoring Rubric Training

The MI-Access Supported Independence and Participation assessments use selected-response and activity-based observation item formats and are scored by the assessment administrator using very specific rubrics. It is very important for those administering these assessments be properly trained on administering and scoring these assessments. Refresher training is also strongly recommended, even for those who have administered these assessments for several years.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has recently updated the online training for administering and scoring this assessment. The training is now available through the Michigan Virtual Learning Platform. Participants can earn two free State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) for taking this course.

To access this course, go to [Michigan Virtual](https://plp.michiganvirtual.org/) (https://plp.michiganvirtual.org/), or select the link on the [MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access). Enter **MI-Access** in the search box and select **MI-Access Training: Participation and Scoring Administration**. All new and experienced primary and shadow assessment administrators are encouraged to participate in this training!

1% Cap Waiver Request Public Input

Public comment is currently open for input on the components of the plan that will be included in the 2021 1% Cap Waiver Request. Refer to the article on page 4 of the [November 19 Spotlight on Student Assessment](#). Public comment will close on **December 18, 2020**.

Winter Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (K-2)

Schools that will be participating in the Winter 2021 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment for grades K-2 should continue to pre-identify their students on the OEAA Secure Site. These students will be automatically transferred to the DRC INSIGHT Portal through **February 4, 2021**. Starting **December 11, 2020**, the DRC INSIGHT Portal will be available for users who have access for Early Literacy and Mathematics to put students into sessions (if not already done on the Secure Site) and to manage the online testing.

The Winter Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (K-2) window is **January 4 – February 5, 2021**.

More information about the pre-identification process for Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments can be found in the [November 12, 2020 Spotlight](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight).

Winter 2021 M-STEP Online Passage-based Writing Field Test

Schools participating in the Winter 2021 M-STEP Online Passage-based Writing Field Test in grades 3-8 should continue to pre-identify their students on the OEAA Secure Site. These students will be automatically transferred to the DRC INSIGHT Portal through **February 4, 2021**. Starting **December 11, 2020**, the DRC INSIGHT Portal will be available for users who have access for M-STEP to put students into sessions and manage the online testing.

More information about the Winter 2021 M-STEP Online Passage-based Writing Field Test can be found in the [November 12, 2020 Spotlight](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight).

2021 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Announcements and Resources

As noted in the [memo](#) emailed to local and intermediate school district superintendents on December 2, the 2021 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window will be open **February 1, 2021** through **March 19, 2021**. The [memo](#) also states that the U.S. Department of Education has not granted any flexibility to states related to the expectation that states will assess all English learners for this school year.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the WIDA Consortium have attempted to find solutions to mitigate this burden, with one potential solution being to allow students to test at home. However, the WIDA Consortium identified significant concerns that outweigh potential benefits for a remote administration. Issues included equity, validity of the test results, demands on local educators, test security, and costs. In agreement with prevailing state and WIDA subcommittee input, and with the WIDA Executive Committee's recommendation, the WIDA Consortium has decided to not develop a remote administration for the summative WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessments this coming year.

MDE will support districts in whatever ways possible through the very challenging constraints of doing a large-scale assessment in person. A document that districts can use to aid in their WIDA ACCESS planning is now posted to the [WIDA web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/wida). Educators are also encouraged to join any of the following WIDA ACCESS Office Hours:

- December 15, 2020, 10 – 11 a.m.
[Zoom Link](#)
- December 22, 2020, 10 – 11 a.m.
[Zoom Link](#)

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

- January 5, 2021, 3 – 4 p.m.
[Zoom Link](#)
- January 12, 2021, 11 a.m. – Noon
[Zoom Link](#)
- January 19, 2021, Noon – 1 p.m.
[Zoom Link](#)
- January 26, 2021, 3 – 4 p.m.
[Zoom Link](#)

No registration is necessary. These Zoom meetings are opportunities for educators who are coordinating or administering the WIDA assessments to ask questions of MDE staff and to share ideas related to test administration under this year's unique circumstances.

Pre-identification, Material Orders, and WIDA Test Exceptions

A reminder: The window for pre-identification, material orders, and WIDA Test Exceptions will open on the OEAA Secure Site on **December 15, 2020**. Make sure to run a Pre-ID Student Report to verify that the all English learner (EL) students in grades K-12 have been pre-identified. It is the district/school responsibility to pre-identify any additional students who were identified as EL or enrolled in the school after the fall student count day, directly on the OEAA Secure Site.

Districts have until **December 23, 2020** to ensure that students are correctly pre-identified (including identifying students taking the WIDA Alternate ACCESS). This is to ensure that paper/pencil materials are ordered and barcode labels are printed by the vendor in order for schools to receive those materials on January 27, 2021. Additionally, pre-identifying students is the only way for students to be transferred into WIDA AMS for online testing.

NWEA Webinar: How did COVID impact student learning? The data is in

When: December 15, 2020 at 1 p.m. ET (45 minutes plus Q&A)

Topic: How did COVID impact student learning? The data is in. Join the NWEA research team for a look at the impact interrupted learning had on achievement at the start of the 2020-21 school year. NWEA's expert panel will discuss the implications of this research and offer practical guidance for supporting students with unfinished learning.

Learn more about this webinar and [register for this live event](#). If you have any questions, contact Pam Jones at Pam.Jones@nwea.org.



Reminders

2020-21 Annual Education Report (AER) Preview Available

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have finalized the data and materials for schools to use in publishing the Annual Education Report (AER).

2020-21 AERs are available in preview for schools at [MI School Data](http://www.mischooldata.org) (www.mischooldata.org). School/district users must log into MI School Data to review their reports. The preview window will end on **December 16**, and AERs will become public on **December 17**.

The AER can be found on MI School Data by logging in and then navigating to the K-12 menu and selecting School Accountability. Note the “Combined Report” mentioned in the November 19, 2020 memo is the **Annual Education Report** tab on MI School Data and can be found directly to the right of the **Annual Education Report Home** tab.

Due to COVID-19, the United States Department of Education waived many, but not all, of the required data elements for the 2020-21 AER. Further details can be found in the [AER FAQ](#) on MI School Data.

2021 Michigan School Testing Conference

The 2021 Michigan School Testing Conference (MSTC) will be held in mid-February, but this year in a very different manner - virtually. The uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have affected all of us deeply and in very different ways. In planning

the 2021 conference, the feasibility of an in-person conference became very challenging, given restrictions (or even bans) on large-group gatherings and the limited space for “social distancing” at the Sheraton Ann Arbor Hotel, where the conference was held during the past two years.

The MSTC Planning Committee is shifting the 2021 MSTC Conference to an all-virtual event to be held **February 16-18, 2021**. This year’s conference will be the 61st annual event. The mission of MSTC is to provide educators with professional learning opportunities about assessment, as well as information on national, state, and local assessment programs and trends. The conference is unique in its match to the needs of Michigan educators, featuring examples of outstanding practices from local educators, as well as state and nationally renowned experts in the field.

The annual Michigan School Testing Conference consists of a day for workshops and two days of plenary and clinic sessions.

On **Tuesday, February 16, 2021, from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 to 3:45 p.m.**, six half-day and two full-day workshops will be offered. Login will start at 8 a.m.

The conference itself takes place on **Wednesday, February 17, 2021** and continues through **Thursday, February 18, 2021**. Keynote presenters on Wednesday, February 17 include Jay McTighe (Educational Author/Consultant) and Andy Middlestead (Michigan Department of Education), while Mike Nettles (Educational Testing Service) will be the keynote speaker on Thursday, February 18.

For [conference program information](#) and registration, go to the [MSTC online registration site](#).

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

Formative

Interim

Summative

Early Literacy Assessment Systems: Supporting All Michigan Students (PreK-20)

Michigan state law MCL 380.1280f, or the Read by Grade 3 law, addresses the critical need for students to be proficient in reading by the end of third grade, and ideally sooner, as this enables them to access and achieve the learning they will require to be successful in college, and in their careers. The law calls for district and public school academies to select and use one or more “valid and reliable screening, formative and diagnostic reading assessment systems” to foster early literacy development.

More than just a collection of tests, an Early Literacy Assessment System (ELAS) constitutes an integrated and purposeful set of formative, benchmark, and summative assessments. By providing timely information about student learning, these assessments help schools think critically about the effectiveness of their instruction, curriculum, and professional learning, helping them to plan and adjust these ongoing activities to best support the development of literacy for all children.

The system of assessments for early literacy must be designed, implemented, and monitored to ensure:

- coherence (the vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum and instruction to academic standards)
- comprehensiveness (a range of assessment measures varying in purpose and evidence to support educational decision making)
- continuity (the measurement and monitoring of student learning over time)

By assessing early in a child’s school career, schools are able to provide the supports and interventions needed to ensure that all young literacy learners are proficient by grade three.

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Related Resources

[Early Literacy Assessment Systems that Support Learning: A Guide to Developing, Implementing and Supporting District Assessment Systems](#)

This document provides guidance to Michigan schools and districts for the design, implementation, support, and maintenance of an ELAS.

Put Into Practice

Consider the analogy: “a collection of assessments does not entail a system any more than a pile of bricks constitutes a house.”

To continue the analogy, if assessments are the “bricks” of an assessment system, what might be the “foundation”? What might be the “roof”?

Focus on Assessment Literacy

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

Formative

Interim

Summative

Finally, as school and district leaders design an ELAS, they should develop a theory of action and logic model that explicitly answers the following questions:

1. What are the desired outcomes of the proposed assessment system? (Prioritized Goals)
2. How will the proposed assessment system bring about the desired change? (Theory of Learning)
3. What are the assessments, and how are they aligned to the outcomes? (Purpose)
4. What is the expected relationship among the components of the ELAS?
5. How will the ELAS inform the interventions and supports to meet the specified goals? (Intended Use)
6. Is the ELAS working as intended and providing the desired outcomes?

Regardless of the design of the system, these actions are critical for building a coherent, comprehensive, and continuous assessment system that supports literacy learning and academic achievement for all of Michigan's students.

Focus on Assessment Literacy

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

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

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

WHAT'S NEW

Accommodations and Supports Webinar

For those who were not able to attend the live webinar held on December 9, the recorded webinar and a PDF of the presentation will be posted to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) and the [PSAT web page](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat) by **December 17, 2020**.

State-Allowed Accommodations and English Learner Supports Window

SSD coordinators can begin to submit requests for state-allowed accommodations and English learner time and one-half (+50% extended time) support in SSD Online during the **week of January 11, 2021**.

REMINDERS

SSD Online Data Migration

To prepare for the new SSD Online system, SSD coordinators should submit all open accommodation requests (requests that have been started but not submitted) and requests that have been submitted but are awaiting documentation by December 10, 2020, to ensure the data is migrated to the new system. The system is expected to be offline from **December 11-14, 2020**. All other requests in the system will be migrated over.

Preparing for Test Day Webinar

A Preparing for Test Day webinar will be presented on **January 20, 2021 from 1-2 p.m.** It will focus on frequently asked questions about organizing a preadministration session, planning for test day, and managing test materials

[Register for the webinar](https://tinyurl.com/2021Preparation-MI) (https://tinyurl.com/2021Preparation-MI). For those who cannot attend the live session, it will be recorded and posted to the MDE [MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme) and the [PSAT web page](http://www.michigan.gov/psat) (www.michigan.gov/psat) within approximately one week of the presentation.

ACT WorkKeys

Reminder

Completing ACT's Manage Participation Process

The window for completing Managing Participation is past due. If schools have not yet completed Manage Participation using the PearsonAccess^{next} system, refer to the [October 29, 2020 Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability Newsletter](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-spotlight) for information and high-level instructions on completing ACT's Manage Participation process.

District Assessment Coordinators should ensure that all schools within your district have completed the Manage Participation process, even if they are not testing.

Names of schools that have completed their Test Date and Materials Receipt Selections are sent to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site daily. District and Building Assessment Coordinators can verify each school's status by reviewing the Test Center Participation page on the [OEAA Secure Site](#) (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure) under the **Assessment Registration** drop-down menu.

For all upcoming events and deadlines, be sure to reference the following documents:

- [ACT WorkKeys Schedule of Events](#) posted on the on the WorkKeys on Paper page.
- [MME and High School PSAT List of Important Dates](#) found on the [MME web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mme) under **General information**.

Contacting ACT

If you have questions, you may:

1. contact ACT via the [Contact Us web page](#) (www.act.org/aap/state/contact.html)
2. call ACT at 800-553-6244 between 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - standard time: ext. 2800
 - accommodations: ext.1788
3. email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

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

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines . . .

December 18, 2020

- Public Comment on the 2021 1% Cap Waiver Request **CLOSES** (see page 4 of the [November 19 Spotlight](#))

December 2020

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – February 4, 2021

- Pre-identification of students for **Winter 2021 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments**

M-STEP

Now – February 4, 2021

- Pre-identification of students for **M-STEP Passage-based Writing Field Test**

WIDA

Now – March 17, 2021

- WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** Off-site Test Administration Request window in OEAA Secure Site

December 15 – 23, 2020

- WIDA ACCESS for ELLs** Initial Material Order window (Braille & Enlarged Print)

December 15 – 23, 2020

- WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** Pre-identification of students for barcode labels in OEAA Secure Site window

December 15, 2020 – January 22, 2021

- WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** Test Exception Request window

December 15, 2020 – March 19, 2021

- WIDA ACCESS for ELLs** Pre-identification of students in OEAA Secure Site window

SAT and PSAT

Now – December 18, 2020

- Window to submit off-site requests for **SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9**

January 2021

Early Literacy and Mathematics

January 4 – February 5, 2021

- Winter 2021 Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments** online test administration window

M-STEP

January 4 – February 5, 2021

- M-STEP Passage-based Writing Field Test** online test administration window (refer to the [November 12 Spotlight](#) for information)

SAT and PSAT

January 11 – February 22, 2021

- Window to submit state-allowed accommodations and English learner extended time requests for **SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9**

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