

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

September 17, 2020

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Benchmark Assessment Web Page Launch

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is pleased to announce the launch of the new [Benchmark Assessments web page](#) (www.michigan.gov/mde-benchmarkassessments). This page will house information related to the benchmark assessment provisions in the newly passed Return to Learn legislation, Public Act 149.

The page currently contains:

- links to memos and Spotlight articles related to benchmark assessments in context of the Return to Learn Law
- the Technical Support Benchmark Assessment PowerPoint presentation
- contact information for the assessment providers on the MDE-approved list of providers

Additional items will be posted as they become available, including:

- the recorded Technical Support Benchmark Assessment presentation
- a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document
- a summary document of the information contained in the Technical Support Benchmark Assessment PPT and recorded presentation
- information from the approved assessment providers regarding their products and how they can help districts meet the requirements of the Return to Learn law
- assessment literacy information specific to benchmark assessments

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Key:  Reminder (previously run article)

One frequently asked question OEAA has been receiving is, “Do I have to administer a benchmark assessment provided by Curriculum Associates, Data Recognition Corporation, NWEA, or Renaissance Learning?”

The answer is “No”. The Return to Learn law provides districts with choice and flexibility. Districts’ options include:

- benchmark assessment(s) offered by an assessment provider on the MDE-approved provider list
- benchmark assessment(s) or tool(s) that provide progress monitoring and enhanced diagnostics in reading and/or progress monitoring in mathematics
- local benchmark assessment(s), especially if used in previous years
- any combination of the three prior choices

DRC Remote Testing Webinar

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be hosting a remote testing webinar on **Monday, September 21, 2020 at 12 noon**. DRC is offering remote testing for the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (grades 3-8)
- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments (Grades K-2)

Webinar topics will include:

- when remote testing should be used
- an overview of the remote testing process

- available resources for remote testing and where to find them
- a Question and Answer period

Webinar details:

[Join the webinar](https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/j/98356700493) (https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/j/98356700493)

Webinar ID: 983 5670 0493

or iPhone one-tap: US:
+13017158592,98356700493#

or Telephone: US: 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

i-Ready – Getting Good Data: Empowering Families to Test Well at Home Webinar

While you have been busy reimagining every aspect of the 2020 school year, Curriculum Associates has been focused on the one central theme that always drives our partnerships at this time of year: let’s get the very best i-Ready data we can, so the learning paths for all students will be exactly what they need to thrive.

The Empowering Families webinar will introduce a range of custom resource material curated for district leaders, building leaders, teachers and families—unifying the effort for successful at-home i-Ready testing. This session will also include an opportunity for collegial sharing and Q&A, as we continue to rise together to meet the oncoming scenarios of this unique back-to-school season.

Additionally, the Regional Vice President of Government Relations, Paul Rice, will join the webinar to discuss Michigan Public Act 149 for benchmark assessments in the fall.

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

If you have questions, email CurriculumAssociatesEvents@cainc.com.

Can't make it? If you are registered, you will receive the recording after the webinar via email.

Webinar Details

**Tuesday, September 22, 8:30 a.m. ET
(7:30 a.m. CT)**

[Register for webinar](#)

Yes, Identifying English Learners Is Still Required

Regardless of the instructional mode being offered to students, schools are still responsible for identifying potential English learners (ELs). The requirement that the school's enrollment form includes the Michigan-approved Home Language Survey (HLS) questions for all new enrolling students has not changed. Once districts have identified potential ELs based on responses to the HLS, they may choose to screen students in-person (if possible) using the Kindergarten WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (K W-APT) or the WIDA Screener (grades 1-12).

Guidance on in-person screening of students can be found in the [In-Person WIDA Screening Considerations](#) document on the [WIDA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida). However, if districts are unable to screen in-person, they must follow the guidance outlined in the [Temporary Guidance for Identifying English Learners During Remote Learning](#) document.

WIDA Secure Portal User Guide Available

If you have recently been identified as your district's English Learner Assessment Coordinator, you will now be responsible for overseeing the WIDA assessments for your district. One of your responsibilities is to maintain user accounts for your district within the [WIDA Secure Portal](https://wida.wisc.edu/login) (<https://wida.wisc.edu/login>). This includes ensuring test administrators complete training by reviewing training scores, adding users, and inactivating accounts for educators who are no longer in the district or are no longer serving in that role. Directions for this are found in the Secure Portal User Guide, which is accessible at the top of the **My Account & Secure Portal** page in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).



New Alternate Content Expectations for Science

New alternate content expectations for science have been approved and posted to the [MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access). These new alternate content expectations for science replace the 2007 version of the Michigan Extended Benchmarks for Science.

The new alternate content expectations are based on the Michigan K-12 science performance expectations and the Next Generation Science Standards. The new expectations were developed by Michigan educators from both the science discipline and from the special education field. The [Michigan's Alternate Content Expectations for Science: Development Process and Structure](#) document outlines the process that was used in the development.

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The new alternate content expectations were developed to help teachers guide students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities in gaining access to and engaging in rich science educational experiences. Teachers are encouraged to start addressing these new alternate content expectations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities this year. There is a set of expectations for each grade level from kindergarten through grade 5, and a set for middle school and high school. Each set has a full Michigan range of complexity (high, medium, and low), consistent with the English language arts and mathematics Essential Elements.

The new alternate content expectations will serve as the foundation for the MI-Access assessment in science, which is also designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

In Spring 2021, as in the past several years, MI-Access will assess science using the 2007 extended benchmarks for science in grades 4, 7 and 11. In 2022, MI-Access science will measure the new alternate content expectations in grades 5, 8 and 11. Both the new alternate expectations for science and the Legacy 2007 science extended benchmarks can be found on the MI-Access web page for [Michigan's Alternate Content Expectations for Social Studies and Science](#).

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September 23 SAT with Essay Reminders

- No Pre-ID labels to be affixed to answer sheets will be sent.
- If you are planning for a makeup administration on October 27, do not forget to order makeup tests in the College Board test ordering site between September 23-25.

PSAT/NMSQT Reminders

- No pre-ID labels to be affixed to answer sheets will be sent.
- There is no accommodated window for PSAT/NMSQT testing. Be sure to schedule testing for all students on your chosen primary test date. Students approved to test over two days, must test on the primary test date and on the day after.
- Ordering for the January PSAT/NMSQT administration will open in October.

PSAT 8/9 Reminders

- No pre-ID labels to be affixed to answer sheets will be sent.
- Schools have two weeks from the chosen primary test date to get all students tested.

Fall 2020 Test Coordinator Supplement

- College Board has published a [test coordinator supplemental guide](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/test-coordinator-supplemental-guide.pdf) ([https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/test-coordinator-](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/test-coordinator-supplemental-guide.pdf)

supplemental-guide.pdf) for SAT School Day, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 8/9. The document explains how the flexible policies provided for fall testing will affect how you administer the tests at your school, including explanations of how procedures may diverge from what is in the applicable Coordinator Manual. This supplement will **not** be shipped directly to schools.

- This is a national publication and may include information that is not applicable to Michigan-provided testing, such as testing PSAT 8/9 after October 29 and the October 17 PSAT/NMSQT.

Fall 2020 SAT with Essay Test Books and Procedures

Because COVID-19 caused most Spring 2020 testing to be canceled, College Board has repurposed unused spring materials for SAT School Day administrations this fall.

- **September 23 SAT School Day** administration – test books will have “April 28, 2020” printed on the cover
- **October 14 SAT School Day** administration – test books will have “April 14, 2020” printed on the cover
- **All SAT School Day test dates** – complete field 3 on the Coordinator Report Form (CRF) using your actual administration date, **not** the date printed on the test books

Important Dates

Coming Next Week . . .

September 23, 2020

- **SAT with Essay** Fall 2020 administration date

September 2020

PSAT 8/9

September 21 – October 29, 2020

- **PSAT 8/9** Fall 2020 administration window (Pick one primary administration date, and complete all makeup testing within two weeks of the primary administration date.)

Early Literacy and Mathematics

Now – October 29, 2020

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

Now – October 30, 2020

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

October 2020

SAT with Essay

October 14, 2020

- **SAT with Essay** Fall 2020 administration date

October 27, 2020

- **SAT with Essay** Fall 2020 makeup administration (This makeup date can also be used as a third administration date.)

PSAT/NMSQT

October 14, 2020

- **PSAT/NMSQT** Fall 2020 administration date

October 29, 2020

- **PSAT/NMSQT** Fall 2020 administration date

November/December 2020

December 2, 2020 10 a.m.

- Winter/Spring 2021 Technology Coordinator Training Zoom webinar

[Join the webinar](#)

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