

Spotlight

on Student Assessment and Accountability

August 20, 2015

Quick Links . . . take you directly to articles or sections . . .

- [News on 2016 M-STEP and MME!](#)
- [Would you be interested in serving on an assessment committee?](#)
- [Kindergarten Entry Assessment Pre-ID](#)
- [DAS Conferences on Student Assessment and Accountability – Registration Open for 2 Locations](#)
- [SAT Corner](#)
- [Important Dates](#)



News on 2016 M-STEP and MME!

MDE would like to thank everyone again for a very successful administration of the MME and the M-STEP this past spring. It was with everyone's diligent efforts that we were able to be as successful as we were! We received feedback during the administration that the assessments were working smoothly and that students were "active and engaged" with this new test.

As with any new product, we know that there is room to improve our assessment system. After the administration of last year's assessments, we solicited feedback through surveys, focus groups, and from key stakeholders on ways we can improve our assessment system for 2016. It was critical to us that we heard from the users of our assessments. That feedback was crucial in helping us modify our system to create an improved experience for our students and educators.

Respondents to our Spring 2015 M-STEP online surveys:

Student Survey: 26,125 students

Parent Survey: 5,794 parents

Online Administration Survey: 3,411

Online Administration Technology Survey: 277

Two concerns that stood out were that 1) the assessment process overall took up too much instructional time in the spring, and 2) the overall student testing experience was too long, especially in English language arts. We are hopeful that the modifications we are making will help!

New for 2016!

1. The MME in 11th grade will consist of 1) the **SAT with Essay**, 2) **ACT WorkKeys**, and 3) the online **M-STEP Science and Social Studies**. There will no longer be an M-STEP English language arts and mathematics component. **This reduces state-required testing time in 11th grade by up to 8 hours!**

(Continued on next page)

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

2. For the M-STEP in grades 3–8, the Performance Task portion of the English language arts assessment will only be administered once in elementary school (grade 5) and once in middle school (grade 8). **This reduces testing time by 2.5 hours in each of the 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th grades!**

The M-STEP Mathematics assessments will continue to include a Performance Task in grades 3 through 8.

3. We want to improve the testing experience by providing the test in smaller portions, that may be administered over multiple days, so that students will not be required to complete the test in one sitting. We will provide more information on the test design and administration once we have finalized the details. Look for this information in future Spotlights.

4. Our testing windows have been adjusted for Spring 2016. The schedule below reflects these changes.

Spring 2016 Testing Schedule for Summative Assessments

| Assessment | Week Beginning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|--------------|---------|--------------|-----|-----|------|------|--|
| | 2/8 | 2/15 | 2/22 | 2/29 | 3/7 | 3/14 | 3/21 | 3/28 | 4/4 | 4/11 | 4/18 | 4/25 | 5/2 | 5/9 | 5/16 | 5/23 | |
| M-STEP Grades 5, 8, and 11 | | | | | | | | | | 3 weeks | | | | | | | |
| M-STEP Grades 3 and 6 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 weeks | | | | | | |
| M-STEP Grades 4 and 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 weeks | | | | | |
| MI-Access Alternate Assessments | | | | | | | | | | 7 weeks | | | | | | | |
| College Entrance: SAT with Essay | | | | | | | | | | 4/12 only | | 4/26 only | | | | | |
| Accommodations Testing** | | | | | | | | | | Dates TBD | | | | | | | |
| Work Skills: ACT WorkKeys | | | | | | | | | | 4/13 only | | 4/27 only | | | | | |
| Accommodations Testing | | | | | | | | | | 4/13 – 4/27 | | | | | | | |
| PSAT* | | | | | | | | | | 4/12 or 4/13 | | 4/26 or 4/27 | | | | | |
| WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 | 7 weeks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs | 7 weeks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* Both PSAT tests (grades 9 and 10) must be administered on the initial test date selected by each school. Schools will select **one** makeup date to administer the PSAT in both grade levels, if needed.
 ** The dates for the Accommodations Testing dates are being finalized.

Icon Legend

 Online Assessment Paper/Pencil Assessment

The testing schedule for the M-STEP and MI-Access assessments will not begin until after most spring breaks have ended and will conclude before Memorial Day. The window will span 7 weeks: **April 11–May 27, 2016**. These adjustments, along with moving the administration of SAT and ACT WorkKeys to April, will reduce the overall footprint testing has in

schools, while still allowing flexibility to successfully administer online.

A special note: We are continuing to work with The College Board around flexibility for students testing with accommodations on the SAT. More information will follow as we learn more.

(Continued on next page)

Changes to the testing windows include the following:

Online Test Administration

- The first 3-week window (April 11–April 29) has students in grades 5 and 8 taking the M-STEP, and 11th graders taking the MME.
- The second 3-week window (April 25–May 13) has students in grades 3 and 6 taking the M-STEP.
- The third 3-week window (May 9–May 27) has students in grades 4 and 7 taking the M-STEP.

Paper/Pencil Test Administration

- Designated Paper/Pencil test dates will fall within the same designated test window as the online test window for each grade level. Exact dates for Paper/Pencil administration will be provided soon, and posted on our [M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep).

PSAT Offered in Grades 9 and 10!

- We are excited to offer for the first time the PSAT in grades 9 and 10. As noted in the testing schedule, schools will have the choice to administer the PSAT on either the SAT or WorkKeys date. The PSAT in grades 9 and 10 will not be part of our accountability system this first year.

Looking toward the future

We are hopeful that these changes make a positive difference in the overall experience of Michigan's assessment programs and we are eager to continue to improve. Under the direction of Superintendent Whiston, we will be working with educators and stakeholders around the state in the coming months to look at the overall impact assessment has for our schools. This will involve looking at the entirety of assessments: state required tests, local tests, classroom tools, etc. We aim to create an entire system of assessments that complement each other and, most importantly, benefit our students.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us as we work to improve student assessment in Michigan!

Stay tuned to future Spotlights as we provide information in as timely a manner as possible to prepare for the 2015-16 school years' assessments.



Coming Soon. . .

- 2016 State Assessment Guide
- Paper/Pencil test dates

Would you be interested in serving on an assessment committee?

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) takes great pride that Michigan teachers are involved in every aspect of item development for our assessment programs. Participation on the committees includes thorough training in content and instruction in using the Michigan Item Bank System (web-based application for item and context development).

Participation in OSA committees is an excellent source of professional development for teachers at all grade levels and content areas. Participants will gain an increased knowledge of the standards and the test-development process—knowledge they can bring back to their home districts. MDE will reimburse districts for substitute teacher expenses when applicable. It's a "win" for teachers, districts and above all, students. Please encourage the teachers in your district to apply.

OSA will be hosting committees this fall in all content areas, all grade levels, all assessment programs (M-STEP, MI-Access, Early Literacy).

(Continued on next page)

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

You can complete the online [Assessment Committee Participation Application](http://www.cvent.com/Surveys/Questions/IDConfirm.aspx?s=06002a4e-c578-417d-807f-542787fad180) (<http://www.cvent.com/Surveys/Questions/IDConfirm.aspx?s=06002a4e-c578-417d-807f-542787fad180>), or you can go to the [Student Assessment web page](http://www.michigan.gov/baa) (www.michigan.gov/baa), scroll down to the **Additional Information** section, and click on **Committee Participation Application**.

Please be sure to answer all of the questions so you can be placed on a committee that best suits your talents. The OSA reaches out to teachers in all of the content areas at all grade levels.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have already completed a committee application and/or served on a Michigan assessment committee in the past, please consider updating your information on the revised committee application. OSA is updating the list of committee candidates for improved contact information, relevant teaching experience, and current teaching assignment. Please share this information with other Michigan teachers.

The various committees for these programs are described in the table below.

| Committee | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| Item Writing | Teachers create test items (questions) aligned to Michigan's Standards. Items are written to the specifications assigned in the Michigan Item Bank System. Applicants for this committee will be asked to complete a follow-up application. |
| Item Review | Each test item is reviewed by a committee of Michigan teachers prior to field testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bias and Sensitivity Committee (BSC) – Is there an issue of bias that may advantage or disadvantage a student's performance on a test item? • Content Advisory Committee (CAC) – Are the test items aligned to the Michigan Standards and are they grade-level appropriate? |
| Data Review | Test items are reviewed by a committee of Michigan teachers after pilot and field testing to consider again issues of bias and content (BSC and CAC) based on the pilot or field-test item level data. Is there something about a test item that is causing it to perform in a manner other than what is expected? |
| Context Review | MDE commissions Michigan authors to write the passages for Michigan assessments. Each of our contexts undergo committee review for bias and grade-level appropriateness before items are developed for the passage. |
| Rangefinding | Constructed response items are reviewed and sample score point ranges are set by this committee. |

Kindergarten Entry Assessment Pre-ID

Schools participating in the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) can now begin pre-identifying students in the MDE Secure Site. This step **MUST** be completed in order for teachers participating in the KEA to utilize the TS Gold tool. Kindergarten students will not be loaded into the TS Gold tool without completing this step, nor will teachers be able to manually add students to the TS Gold tool.

Directions for completing KEA Pre-ID can be found on the [MDE Secure Site Training](http://www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining) web page (www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining). Please refer to the *KEA Pre-Identification Directions-Fall 2015* document and *KEA Online Sessions Page Quick Reference* guide.

For questions about Pre-ID and the MDE Secure Site, please e-mail baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378 and press option 3.



Registration Open for 2 Locations

You can still register for one of the 2 sessions available for the DAS Conferences on Student Assessment and Accountability. This is a great opportunity to hear the latest information regarding the 2016 M-STEP, early literacy initiatives, educator evaluations, legislative updates, accountability, and much more!

After registering, you will receive a short survey in which you can indicate which breakout sessions you may want to attend. This doesn't "lock" you into attending a specific breakout session, but gives us an

idea of participant interest in a session topic so that we may schedule the sessions appropriately.

For registration and a list of session topics, please go to [2015 Conferences on Student Assessment and Accountability](http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability) (<http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability>).

The dates and locations for the upcoming conferences are:

- **August 25:** Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI
- **September 1:** Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI

Note: The August 27th conference at Northern Michigan University in Marquette has been canceled due to low registration numbers.

SAT Corner

Information provided by the College Board

Get Ready for Spring PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT Testing!

While the College Board and MDE continue to work through the details of spring testing, here is information to help you know what to expect and when. College Board will be integrated with MDE's secure site for all spring orders, therefore, **please do NOT place orders in College Board ordering systems**. More information will be provided in September-October regarding material orders for the spring testing.

- **Sept. – Oct. 2015: General Information**
MDE and College Board will be providing information about preparation, registration and ordering and a detailed schedule of activities for all 3 assessments.
- **Sept. – Dec. 2015: Institution and Test Center Setup (Establishment)**
College Board will provide instructions and forms required to certify schools for testing.

- **Oct. – Dec. 2015: Accommodation Requests**
College Board will be conducting additional Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) webinars and sharing information regarding the accommodation request process for spring testing.
- **Dec. – Jan. 2016: Registration/Ordering**
MDE and College Board will notify and remind schools about Pre-ID and ordering through the secure site.
- **Jan. – Feb. 2016: Test Day Training**
- **Mar. – Apr. 2016: Test Material Shipments**
- **April 12, 2016: SAT Test Day**
- **April 12 or 13, 2016: PSAT Test Day (grades 9 and 10)**
- **April 26 or 27, 2016: PSAT Makeup Test Day (grades 9 and 10)**
- **Mid May 2016: Score Reports Available**

(Continued on next page)

Be prepared to have the access you will need

Create a [College Board Professional Account](https://account.collegeboard.org/professional/viewCreateAccountAction) (<https://account.collegeboard.org/professional/viewCreateAccountAction>). College Board Professional accounts are required to gain access to our [SSD Online](https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online) system (<https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/ssd-online>) as well as to our K-12 reporting portal.

Register for training workshops

Learn more about the upcoming spring assessments at the following workshops.

- [DAS Fall Conferences for Assessment and Accountability](http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability)
<http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability>
- **Full-Day College Board Workshops:** Participants who have previously registered for the morning Counselor Workshops will be automatically pre-registered for the afternoon workshops. Participants may also choose to register for either workshop separately.
 - ▶ [College Board Counselor Workshops](http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops?field_workshop_state_value=Michigan) (Morning Session)
http://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops?field_workshop_state_value=Michigan
 - ▶ **College Board Implementation workshops** (Afternoon Session, same locations as the Counselor Workshops)
 - [Oakland University – September 21, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509211)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509211>
 - [Wayne State University – September 22, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509221)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509221>
 - [University of Michigan, Dearborn – September 24, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509241)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509241>
 - [Western Michigan University – Kalamazoo – September 28, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509281)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509281>
 - [Western Michigan University – East Beltline, Grand Rapids – September 29, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509292)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509292>
 - [Central Michigan University – October 6, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510061)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510061>
 - [Michigan State University – September 29, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509291)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011509291>
 - [Northern Michigan University – October 8, 2015](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510081)
<https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/meetingDetail.do?meetingID=0011510081>



Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

Assessment and Accountability

- **August 24, 2015:** Sending Scores Back Program for Shared Educational Entities (SEEs and S2E2s) applications (submitted online only) are due by 5:00 PM.

For more information on the 2015–2016 Sending Scores Back Program, including the application and other informational resources regarding SEEs/S2E2s, please visit: www.michigan.gov/sees.

- **August 25, 2015:** DAS Conference on Student Assessment and Accountability at Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI

September

Assessment and Accountability

- **September 1, 2015:** DAS Conference on Student Assessment and Accountability at Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI
- **September 16, 2015:** The 2015 Graduation Rate Appeals Window in MSDS will close.

For the most up-to-date information on the appeals window, please visit the [CEPI Graduation and Droupout Information](http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html) web page (http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-986_50502_56418---,00.html). If you have any questions, please send an email to CEPI customer support at CEPI@michigan.gov or call (517) 335-0505 and follow the prompts.

► Access previous [Spotlight editions](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html), (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-280911--,00.html)

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.