



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, your school district will administer state tests designed to provide important information on student knowledge and student career- and college-ready progress upon graduation. Federal and state laws require these tests. Schools and districts use these test results, among others, for school improvement initiatives that benefit students. The data gathered from this year's state assessments and other data will help educators support students when they return to school in the fall and move forward with their education.

Students in grades 3-10 will participate in the following assessments:

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3-7)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 8)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 (grade 10)

Grade 11 students will participate in the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which has three required components:

- SAT with Essay college entrance exam that also measures student knowledge of Michigan's ELA and mathematics standards
- ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment
- M-STEP science and social studies

MI-Access, Michigan's Alternate Assessment Program

MI-Access (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) is Michigan's alternate assessment system for grades 3–8 and 11. It is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations (known as essential elements) and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirement that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

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Additional Information

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will help support your child's experience. State assessment results do not affect your student's grades in any way.

On average, a student will spend no more than three hours on M-STEP mathematics and ELA tests. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will spend an additional two and one-half hours on science and social studies testing.

While we support parents in making choices for their children, there is no "opt-out" of state assessments under state or federal law. Students who are not assessed will count against their school's required 95 percent participation rate, which will create an incomplete picture of their school's performance.

Assessment results help target support and resources to students and schools that need them most. The test results may also inform future state education programs and policies to help Michigan students catch up on learning that was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, www.michigan.gov/oeaa. An excellent place to start is with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at www.michigan.gov/mstep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "R".

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent