

2017

# State Assessment in Michigan

WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT MEANS,  
WHAT IT OFFERS



# Expecting More

- ▶ Getting children ready to take their place in the world is challenging.
- ▶ The knowledge and skills students need for a well-paying job continually evolve to meet current and future workplace demands.



# Expecting More

- ▶ To ensure students can meet these demands, the State Board of Education routinely strengthens Michigan learning standards.
- ▶ State standards broadly outline what students need to know and be able to do in each subject and grade level to be career- and college-ready upon high school graduation.

# Expecting More

- ▶ Standards also serve as a foundation for teachers to develop classroom instruction and lesson plans.
- ▶ Today's standards challenge students to:
  - ✓ Understand subject matter more deeply.
  - ✓ Learn how to think critically.
  - ✓ Apply what they are learning to the real world.
  - ✓ Make learning relevant in their lives.

# What Business and Higher Ed are Saying About High Standards

**High education standards and aligned assessments are critical to the success of all Michigan students**

*Business Leaders for Michigan and President's Council, State Universities of Michigan*

# What are Michigan Standards?

- ▶ They are learning goals for mathematics, English language arts (ELA), science and social studies.
- ▶ They prepare students for college and careers.
- ▶ They are educator-developed.
- ▶ They will help students compete nationally and globally.
- ▶ They are not a curriculum or federal program.

# How does Michigan measure progress?

Once each spring, all students take a high-quality state assessment.

- ▶ **M-STEP** is given each spring to students in grades 3-8.
- ▶ **PSAT** (PreSAT) is given each spring to students in grades 9 and 10.
- ▶ **Michigan Merit Exam (MME)** comprises a suite of tests for students in grade 11.

# Why State Assessments?

State standardized assessments are required under both state and federal law, to ensure all children are learning and receiving a high-quality education.

State assessments are “summative,” meaning they measure what students are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels and in specific content areas.



# Why State Assessments?...cont'd

- ▶ State assessments provide:
  - An important snapshot of student achievement at state, district, and building levels.
  - Valuable information to parents on their child's academic achievement.
  - Important data for teachers, schools, and districts to help guide instruction.

# What is M-STEP?

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) is the state assessment used to assess student progress on Michigan's standards since 2015.

M-STEP has fewer multiple choice questions than the previous MEAP assessment and more questions that require problem solving and critical thinking skills.

# What is M-STEP?...cont'd

M-STEP is aligned to Michigan's challenging learning standards and is administered each spring to students in grades 3-8.

M-STEP measures skills in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.

# Computer Adaptive Testing

M-STEP assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics use computer adaptive testing (CAT).

CAT tests are customized for each student for a more accurate measurement of what students know.

# High School Assessments

*The PSAT (Pre-SAT) for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders*

- ▶ The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) provides the PSAT for students in grades 9 and 10. For more information, please contact your local high school.

# High School Assessments...cont'd

*The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) for 11th grade students includes three components:*

- ▶ **M-STEP** assessments in science and social studies.
- ▶ **SAT with Essay** – the nation's most widely-used college admission test, also measures student knowledge of state standards in English language arts and mathematics.
- ▶ **ACT WorkKeys** work skills measurement.

# Support for High School Students

- ▶ To prepare students for the College Board's PSAT and the SAT with Essay, Michigan students have free access to the Khan Academy for online test practice.
- ▶ For more information on the PSAT and SAT, please visit: the College Board's Michigan website at: [Michigan College Board web page](#).

# M-STEP Testing Time Reduction

- ▶ In 2016, the MDE made changes which reduced testing time:
  - eliminated ELA performance tasks for students in grades 3,4,6,7 (**reduced** testing time by 2 hours)
  - adopted the SAT to serve as both a college entrance exam and as the M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment for students in grade 11 (**reduced** testing time by up to 8 hours)



# Time Students Spend on State Assessments

- ▶ Most students spend between 4-8 hours total each year taking state assessments.
- ▶ State assessments comprise less than **one percent** of student instructional time during a school year.
- ▶ All other assessments are determined at the local district or building level.

# When Does My Student Take State Assessments?

# 2017 Testing Schedule

- ▶ To provide districts and schools scheduling flexibility, online M-STEP testing sessions can be scheduled on any instructional day within a 4-week window.
- ▶ Not all students need to be administered the same assessment at the same time, nor on the same day.
- ▶ Test sessions are **not** timed (with the exception of the PSAT, College Entrance and Work Skills Tests). Students should be allowed extra time if needed.

# Spring 2017 Online Testing Schedule

Grade Level	Assessment Used and Content Areas Assessed	Testing Window
Grades 3 and 6	M-STEP Mathematics and ELA	May 1 through May 26
Grades 4 and 7	M-STEP Mathematics, ELA, and Science	May 1 through May 26
Grades 5 and 8	M-STEP Mathematics, ELA, and Social Studies	April 10 through May 5
Grades 9 and 10	PreSAT (PSAT)	April 11 or 12 April 25 or 26 (Makeup)
Grade 11 MME	M-STEP Science, and Social Studies	April 10 through May 5
Grade 11 MME	SAT (Used to test ELA & Mathematics and as a college entrance exam)	April 11 or April 25 (Makeup)
Grade 11 MME	ACT WorkKeys	April 12 or April 26 (Makeup)
MI-Access Alternate Assessment - all grades, all content areas		April 10 through May 26
WIDA for students who are learning the English language		February 6 through March 24

# Paper and Pencil Option

If a district has determined it has a school that is not yet technology-ready, it may request a waiver from administering the M-STEP online.



The paper and pencil test administration is held on designated dates within the online test window.

# Test Results

- ▶ Student performance is described as one of four levels: not proficient, partially proficient, proficient, and advanced.
- ▶ *The M-STEP is a very different state test than those administered prior to the Spring of 2015; therefore results should not be compared to MEAP results through 2014.*

# Test Results...cont'd

- ▶ Schools receive a printed report they give to parents and guardians that describes their student's performance on the subjects tested by M-STEP and MME, which differ by grade.
- ▶ Your student's teacher can explain each of these reports in more detail and describe how your child is doing in each area. They can also discuss what you can do to help your child succeed.

# Questions?

- ▶ Visit the M-STEP web page at [www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep)
- ▶ Visit the MME web page at [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme)
- ▶ Contact the MDE Assessment and Accountability Office at [baa@michigan.gov](mailto:baa@michigan.gov) or 877-560-8378 (toll-free)