

Reed City Area Public Schools

State Assessment Update

What is M-STEP?

New learning standards require new ways to measure how much students know and can do. That's why in 2014-15, Michigan replaced the 44-year-old MEAP test with the new Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). Most schools have chosen to administer M-STEP online rather than paper and pencil.

M-STEP is aligned to Michigan's challenging learning standards and is administered each spring to students in specific grades outlined in the Which Assessments Do Students Take section below. M-STEP has fewer multiple choice questions and more questions that require problem solving and critical thinking skills than the previous MEAP assessment.

Why are State Assessments Important?

Once each year, all students in Michigan take a high quality state assessment, whether it's the M-STEP general assessment or the MI-Access alternate assessment.

State assessments provide:

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

These assessments are required by both state and federal law in order to ensure all children are learning and receiving a high-quality education. State assessments take up or require less than one percent of student instructional time during a school year. All other assessments are determined at the local district or building level.

What subjects will be assessed on the M-STEP in 3rd grade through 8th grade?

Summative M-STEP assessments for each grade level will test the following:

- **GRADE 3:** English/Language Arts and Math
- **GRADE 4:** English/Language Arts, Math, and Science
- **GRADE 5:** English/Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies
- **GRADE 6:** English/Language Arts and Math
- **GRADE 7:** English/Language Arts, Math, and Science
- **Grade 8:** English/Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies

When Do Students Take M-STEP?

To provide schools and districts scheduling flexibility, the online M-STEP is administered any instructional day within a select three-week window in the spring.

Spring 2016 Test Windows and Release of Test Results

- Grade 5 April 10 through May 5
- Grades 3 & 4 May 1 through May 26

Help for Parents

How to read the M-Step report:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYBG_VnkshE

What can students expect?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6YEkBQ6RVk>

Parent engagement tool kit

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5233---,00.html>

Online Practice for M-STEP ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies

The online Sample Item Sets are a select group of test items in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies that encompass different item types, such as multiple choice, constructed response, and various kinds of technology-enhanced items. The sets provide students, teachers, and parents practice in solving grade-level and content-specific test items aligned to Michigan's academic content standards.

There are two ways to get to the online Sample Item Sets:

1. Anyone can access the Sample Item Sets through the Chrome browser at <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/>.
2. Schools that have installed the updated INSIGHT software can access the Sample Item Sets by opening INSIGHT.

The directions to access the sample items are the same for both methods:

- a) M-STEP is on the left side;
- b) Select "Online Tools Training"
- c) Select "Sample Item Sets"
- d) Select the grade
- e) Select the content area
- f) Login with the Username and Password provided on the login screen



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