Important M-STEP Updates – Spring 2016

There have been several changes to the M-STEP for Spring 2016:

- ELA performance tasks are only at Grades 5 and 8
- No classroom activities for ELA or mathematics
- No Grade 11 M-STEP for math or ELA
- The ELA and math M-STEP tests for Grades 3-8 will now include a computer-adaptive portion

Computer-Adaptive Tests (CAT) for ELA and Mathematics, Grades 3-8

- How a student answers a question determines if the next question will be easier or harder.
- The exact number of test items may vary from student to student.
- Every question must be answered. Students may not skip items.
- Navigation between questions is limited. Students may not go back to previous items, other than within an ELA passage set.
- No review screen is provided at the end of the test.

Spring 2016 Summative Assessments

M-STEP Grades 3-8

- English Language Arts (Grades 3–8): a computer-adaptive (CAT) assessment, plus a performance task in Grades 5 and 8.
- Mathematics (Grades 3–8): a computer adaptive (CAT) assessment, plus performance tasks in each Grades 3-8
- Science (Grades 4 and 7): fixed-form online assessments
- Social Studies (Grades 5 and 8): fixed-form online assessments

MME Grade 11

- The SAT, including an essay portion
- The ACT WorkKeys
- M-STEP Science: fixed-form online assessment
- M-STEP Social Studies: fixed-form online assessment

PSAT Grades 9-10

- MDE is now offering the PSAT in the spring of 9th and 10th grades! It is expected that all students take the PSAT in 9th and 10th grades, but it will not be part of our accountability system for 2016.

CAT v. Fixed Form Tests

Science and Social Studies Fixed-Form Tests ELA or Math Performance Tasks	ELA or Math Computer-Adaptive Tests
Navigate the test: - Use the back arrow to go to a previous question - Select a specific question number from the drop-down at the top - Flag a question to return to later - Review your questions at the end and return to any questions that have not been answered or that you flagged	On the computer-adaptive tests, students CANNOT go back to a previous question, flag questions, or see a list of unanswered questions. **Once a student answers a question and clicks the "Next" button, that question cannot be visited again.**
Students may leave a question blank and go to the next question. Students may revisit blank questions at the end of the test.	Students must answer a question in order to move to the next question. Students may NOT revisit questions that have been answered.*

* In the ELA test, students can navigate backwards and forwards within passage sets. See the video "Navigating the ELA M-STEP Computer Adaptive Test" for more information.

Help Your Students Prepare for the Online M-STEP

From the March 3, 2016 Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html

OSA recommends that teachers use the following resources with their students:

1) Show the online assessment tutorial
2) Show the computer adaptive test videos
3) Give students the opportunity to log into the sample item sets using the testing device they will use during the actual test

Resources Described

1) Online Assessment Tutorials are posted on eDirect (https://mi.drcedirect.com) → Test Setup → General Information, select the Test Tutorials tab, then select the Play button in the Action column. There are 3 test tutorial options: M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics (K-2).

> ## PAUSE/EXIT/END Test
>
> PAUSE – Stop the test for up to 20 minutes and RESUME the test where you left off.
>
> EXIT – Leave the test for an extended period of time. Answers are saved, but the test is NOT submitted. Student will need their test ticket to log in again. Students may complete a test over multiple days (this is different than last year).
>
> END TEST – Submits the test (fixed form and performance tasks). **TEST CANNOT BE ACCESSED AGAIN ONCE A STUDENT HAS CHOSEN END TEST, EVEN IF NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED**.
>
> CONTINUE –Once the last question in a computer-adaptive test (CAT) has been answered, a student will click the CONTINUE button, and the test will be submitted.

2) Computer Adaptive Test Videos for ELA and mathematics demonstrate how to navigate the computer adaptive tests (CAT), which is different than how the ELA and mathematics tests functioned last spring. **These two important videos can be accessed on the M-STEP webpage (www.michigan.gov/mstep), located in the What's New section.**

3) Sample Item Sets for the Spring 2016 M-STEP for students in grades 3–8, and 11 are a select group of test items in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies that encompass different item types, such as multiple choice, constructed response, and various kinds of technology-enhanced items. Since the item sets are embedded in the online test engine used to deliver state assessments, students will develop familiarity with taking tests online while they practice using the test engine's online tools and navigation buttons. The Sample Item Sets are contained within the Online Tools Training (OTT) component.

Students needing designated supports and/or accommodations on state assessments can practice using the Grade 3 ELA M-STEP Sample Item Set with accommodations. The Grade 3 ELA M-STEP Sample Item Set with Accommodations demonstrates some of the available online embedded accommodations and designated supports such as Text-To-Speech (TTS), Color Chooser, Contrasting Text, Masking, and Reverse Contrast.

Access Sample Item Sets, Calculator Practice, and Supports and Accommodations
- From home or school - **use a Chrome Browser** to visit https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1
- From school – use the INSIGHT* online testing program if it has been installed on school computers

NOTE: The Sample Items Sets are not considered "Practice Tests," as a practice test implies a test with the same number of items and similar level of difficulty as an actual test.

*The Grade 3 ELA M-STEP Accommodated and TTS versions of the sample sets are only available using INSIGHT.