



Instructional Services

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Brian Johnson
Director of Curriculum

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Dear Parent,

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), will be given online and will measure current (versus previous year) student knowledge. The M-STEP will assess student learning on Michigan's standards in mathematics, English language arts (ELA), science, and social studies. This transition is necessary to meet state and federal education guidelines regarding assessment and accountability, as well as to ensure that our summative assessments better reflect what students know and are able to do.

In order to prepare your child for the M-STEP, here are some things you may like to know:

| Grade Assessed: | Content Assessed: |
|------------------------|---|
| 3rd Grade | Mathematics, ELA |
| 4th Grade | Mathematics, ELA |
| 5th Grade | Mathematics, ELA, Science, Social Studies |
| 6th Grade | Mathematics, ELA |
| 7th Grade | Mathematics, ELA |
| 8th Grade | Science, Social Studies |
| 11th Grade | Science, Social Studies |

This year, your child will experience test components and item types in the M-STEP mathematics and ELA assessments in order to measure deeper critical thinking skills. These test components and items include:

- Technology enhanced (TE): On the online tests, some items will ask students to drag and drop, select text in a passage, select spots on a graphic, match between two lists, fill-in-the-blank, or select multiple answers to a test question.
- Constructed response (CR): Students will be asked to produce a written response to some test questions to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the content standard being assessed.
- Because of the technology enhanced and written response items, some questions on the online tests will require basic computer and keyboarding skills. Students will have many opportunities to practice these online tools and skills before taking the tests.
- The high school test, the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), includes, SAT, Work Keys' as well as the M-STEP component.

The MDE understands parent choice. Remember that students are being taught Michigan content standards and this is simply an opportunity to understand their progress. While we support parents in making choices for their children, there is no official ability in state or federal law to "opt out" of assessment, and students who are not assessed will count against their schools' participation rate.



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Parent Request to Excuse Student From

M-STEP Testing

_____ **(other)**

Opt-Out Testing Request

_____ No, I want my child to be excused from taking the M-STEP sponsor by the Michigan Department of Education.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____