



Dear Parents or Guardians,

Your child will take important state assessments this spring. The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) will replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) to measure student achievement. The new test will assess student progress on Michigan’s more rigorous standards on the path to college and career readiness. It not only measures what they know, it also measures understanding of knowledge. Students will be asked to apply what they have learned to realistic situations. State testing is required for **every third through eighth grader, plus eleventh grader** in the state of Michigan. Students’ learning will be measured in the four core areas: English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. For the first time, the state tests will be given online using computers. The state allows a three week testing window to administer online testing. Your child’s attendance and best effort during the testing windows is critical to the assessment process. Please refer to the table below to see when your students will be assessed this year.

M-STEP	Grades 3 and 6	Grades 4 and 7	Grades 5 and 8	GHHS Grade 11	Central HS Grade 11
Testing Window	May 18 – June 5	April 27 – May 15	April 13 – May 1	May 18 – June 5	April 15-16
Subjects	Mathematics English Language Arts	Mathematics English Language Arts Science	Mathematics English Language Arts Social Studies	Mathematics English Language Arts Science Social Studies	Mathematics English Language Arts Science Social Studies

The state assessments are given throughout your child’s school career as required by the federal government. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver (formerly No Child Left Behind) holds schools accountable for more rigorous standards in core content. Students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through questions that include multiple choice, short answer, extended response, and a performance task that asks students to read, listen, think, and then write. The tests are not timed but students must complete a “part” the same day it is started.

The M STEP tests provide us with an opportunity to measure academic achievement as compared to expectations and help us determine whether our improvement programs are having the desired effect. Additionally, the tests help us target academic assistance where it is needed.

Please help your child be successful during testing weeks by ensuring they have proper nutrition and rest. Attending school during this time is important. Our school community is proud of the learning and growth in our schools. Please join us in encouraging each student to give their best effort on the state tests.

If you have further questions regarding these tests, please contact your principal or the Instructional Services office. In addition, parents can learn more about M STEP assessments on the official state website www.mi.gov/mstep. If you would like to give your child opportunities to use the keyboard prior to testing, these websites are recommended for younger students:

- Dancemat Typing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr>
- Keyboard Climber <http://www.tvokids.com/games/keyboardclimber>
- ABCYa <http://www.abcya.com/>

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Evink
Director of Instructional Services