



# Rochester Community Schools Curriculum Department State Spring Assessment Update



Dear RCS Parents/Guardians:

This communication will provide information related to the new M-STEP. As you may know, the Michigan Department of Education has transitioned from the 44-year-old MEAP (Michigan Education Assessment Program) to the M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress). The new test, which assesses Michigan standards and benchmarks, will be administered in the spring for students in grades 3-8 and 11. Rochester Community Schools has been working diligently to prepare teachers and students for this online test and is addressing technology requirements so that a positive testing experience occurs. Your school's principal will be sharing specific information in the upcoming weeks. Additional District-wide communication will follow closer to the testing window.

Sincerely,

*Michael Behrmann*, Executive Director of Elementary Education

*Carrie Lawler*, Executive Director of Secondary Education

### What is different from the "old MEAP"?

- Testing moves from fall to spring and assesses content from the current year.
- M-STEP provides for online testing.
- All assessments are now aligned with Michigan standards and benchmarks.
- The time spent testing under MEAP ranged from 5.5-10.5 hours depending on grade/subject; while M-STEP will range between 7-9 hours depending on grade level/subject.
- M-Step provides schools with the flexibility to schedule days/times to test students; whereas under MEAP all testing dates/times were pre-determined.
- For both LA and Math, teachers will introduce classroom activities that will be followed by online performance tasks in which students will write or solve complex problems.

### What is similar to the "old MEAP"?

- Tests include both multiple choice and written response questions.
- All students are required to take the M-STEP assessment in grades 3-8 and 11 as required by State and Federal law.
- Schools will receive student and school-wide performance reports in all areas.
- Schools are encouraged to use results to make instructional and curricular decisions.
- Parents will receive reports of student progress.
- Testing accommodations may be provided for students who qualify.
- School results are used for rankings on the State's "Top to Bottom" list.
- 11th grade students will take the M-STEP in May following the ACT and Work Keys (taken in March).

**CLICK HERE TO  
VIEW TESTING  
SCHEDULE FOR  
EACH GRADE  
LEVEL**

**Click Here for Sample Items  
(Google Chrome Browser Only)**

### Characteristics of the M-STEP Online Test

- ✓ Interactive, engaging and technology enhanced format
- ✓ Quick turnaround time for student results
- ✓ Tests students on current year material
- ✓ Prepares students for online testing formats that they will continue to see in the future

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