

April 3, 2023

Dear Seaholm families,

This spring, Birmingham Public Schools students will be taking state summative assessments designed to provide important information on student knowledge and career- and college-ready progress. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) state assessment. The M-STEP measures a high set of academic standards and uses question types that reflect real-world skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving. M-STEP tests are designed around the current Michigan State Standards, including the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics and the grade level content expectations for Science and Social Studies. The M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments are administered to students in grades 3-7, and the science and social studies assessments are administered in grades 5, 8, and 11.

In grades 8-10, students will take the College Board PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 assessments to measure student knowledge in Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics. These assessments help prepare students for the SAT with Essay college entrance exam. Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade participate in the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which comprises the SAT with Essay, ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment, and M-STEP science and social studies tests.

Students in grades 3-8 and 11 with significant cognitive disabilities may take the MI-Access assessment. The MI-Access alternate assessment is designed for students whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations, known as essential elements, and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirement that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

Depending on the grade of your child, they will participate in the assessments listed below on the following dates –

- M-STEP, ELA and Mathematics online: April 10<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>
- M-STEP, ELA and Mathematics paper and pencil: April 10<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>
- MI Access Alternate Assessments: April 10<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>
- PSAT 8/9: April 12<sup>th</sup>
- PSAT 10: April 13<sup>th</sup>
- SAT with Essay: April 12<sup>th</sup>
- ACT WorkKeys: April 13<sup>th</sup>

We are asking that you try to have your child in attendance during their assessment dates. If you have to take your child out during the testing time, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible so alternate testing arrangements can be made. It is also important to note that once the testing session has begun, we cannot allow late students to enter the classroom. We ask that your child arrives at school on time, particularly on testing days.

Federal and state law requires that schools have a minimum of 95% participation in state assessments. Students who are not assessed this year will count against our school's required 95% participation rate, which will create an incomplete picture of our school's performance. For this reason, there is not a way under state and federal law to "opt-out" of state assessments.

These tests are important for multiple reasons. The district receives data that helps determine how well our students are progressing compared to state averages and other districts. The assessment data also will help to target support and resources to the students who need them most. In order to allow students to take these assessments and help the district remain in compliance with state laws, each building will arrange for students to take make-up assessments as necessary.

These testing windows apply to all schools across the State of Michigan. All assessments that are administered can be found on the State of Michigan Department of Education website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa>.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hall, Principal