



Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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March 26, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

This spring, schools throughout the state, including the Warren Consolidated Schools, will be administering the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). This assessment replaces the 44-year old MEAP and is being administered in the spring, rather than the fall, which has been the model for over ten years.

Like the MEAP, the M-STEP will assess all students in grades 3-8 and 11 in English language arts (reading, writing and listening) and mathematics. In addition, the M-STEP will be assessing science in grades 4, 7, and 11. Social studies will also be assessed in grades 5, 8, and 11. The M-STEP was developed by the Michigan Department of Education to effectively measure academic growth for today's students.

The English language arts and mathematics online tests include interactive types of questions and for grades 3-8, will include a classroom activity, followed by an online performance task. These open-ended questions challenge students to explain their answers by providing a written response. The science and social studies portions of the M-STEP are multiple choice type questions.

The M-STEP will be administered in an online format within a three-week testing window, established by the State of Michigan, during April through early June. During this three-week window, students **will not** be testing every day, all day. The various tests will be administered at specific dates and times throughout the testing window. Each school will be communicating their specific schedules to their parents.

M-STEP Testing Windows

3 rd Grade	May 18 – June 5
4 th Grade	April 27 – May 15
5 th Grade	April 13 – May 1
6 th Grade	May 18 – June 5
7 th Grade	April 27 – May 15
8 th Grade	April 13 – May 1

It is extremely important that your children are in attendance during the assessment window. We ask that you avoid scheduling any appointments for your student(s) that involve time out of the classroom during the assessment window. This is especially important because time for make-up assessments is limited and some required components cannot easily be replicated in a make-up setting.

In accordance with state and federal law, all public schools with students in grades assessed by M-STEP are required to administer the annual State assessments. Please understand that any students not testing will count against the school's participation rate.

Teachers have been working extremely hard to prepare your children for success on this new assessment through their daily instruction of the standards adopted by the State. We are confident that our students will demonstrate a strong knowledge and understanding of the content areas included in this assessment. You can help your children demonstrate success by communicating your expectations for them to do the personal best, being sure that they have plenty of rest the evening prior to the test sessions, start their day with a nutritious breakfast and arrive promptly to school and their testing sessions with an eagerness to well.

There are several websites that may be helpful to provide additional information about the M-STEP. You can go to the sites listed below and can also follow the links from the district and school websites.

- ❖ www.mi.gov/mstep The department of Education website for general information
- ❖ <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi.ott1> The M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview (must be used in *Google Chrome*. Click on the 2015 Preview Link, you will then need to click to sign on. Once on the sign in page, use the username and password displayed on the screen to log in. This site will allow grade specific practice, along with an overview of the tools available on the test.

If you have any questions regarding the M-STEP, please contact your child's principal or Dr. Marianne Ochalek, Executive Director of School Improvement.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Konal Ed. S.
Chief Academic Officer
Warren Consolidated Schools