



Michigan Assessment Consortium

Support of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Provides a comprehensive assessment system that will measure standards adopted by the MI State Board of Education and approved by the Michigan Legislature.

Michigan Assessment Consortium Policy Position

The Michigan Assessment Consortium urges the adoption of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC) as our state assessment. We believe that SBAC is a balanced assessment system, which accurately measures the state's adopted standards, and is critical to inform instructional classroom practices.

In this age of accountability, it is imperative that Michigan uses a comprehensive assessment system for teachers in order to support ongoing adjustments in instruction that lead to improved achievement for all students.

Principles of Effective State Assessment Systems

1. Different purposes and uses for student assessment
2. One single assessment cannot meet all purposes equally or effectively
3. A system of assessments is needed to meet purposes of student measurement
4. Balance is needed in assessment systems
5. Balanced assessment systems include interim and summative assessments, and formative practices
6. Assessments need to be aligned to adopted standards
7. All stakeholders need to know how to use assessment information
8. Educators need instructional resources aligned to standards that meets needs of students

The MAC has identified **5 CRITICAL COMPONENTS** of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System that will provide Michigan with aligned supports for educators and students



5 Critical Components of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System

1 - A Balanced Approach to Assessment

- Appropriate balance between Summative, Interim, and Formative Assessment Practices
- Comprehensive system (elementary – H.S)
- Timely information to users of the data
- Accessible digital library will help teachers to improve their instruction

2 – Alignment with MI Adopted Standards – Career and College Ready

- Required alignment for Federal approval was built in
- Deliberately designed items measure one (or more) of the State Standards
- Wide range of item types
- Ongoing academic growth of students can be obtained from the SBAC data
- Robust computer adaptive assessment systems measure the depth and breadth of student knowledge and application with greater precision
- Innovative system built to prepare students for achievement and growth, not merely measure it as a final outcome.

3 –Michigan Educators Involvement

- Governing state of SBAC and Co-Lead of the overall Consortium
- Michigan educators are developing shared instructional resources for CCR and SBAC
- Educators across the state (K-12 and Higher Education) have invested in SBAC training
- Michigan educators key to changes to SBAC
- Michigan will help to develop scoring reports for teachers and students that have instructional value

4 – Ease of Use

- Comprehensive access for educators in the state to the SBAC Digital Library resources
- Increased precision in measurement of students regardless of their current skill level

5 – Data Access and Ownership

- State of Michigan owns the assessment data results
- Additional data analysis available to teachers and other educators through state data portals
- Supports implementation of educator evaluation



About the Michigan Assessment Consortium

The MAC is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, statewide organization whose mission is to improve student learning and achievement through a system of coherent curriculum, balanced assessment and effective instruction. We do this by collaboratively: promoting assessment knowledge and practice, providing professional learning opportunities and producing and sharing assessment tools and resources.

For More Information:

<http://michiganassessmentconsortium.org>