



MSTC

MICHIGAN SCHOOL TESTING CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9–11, 2027 | SHERATON HOTEL, ANN ARBOR



**BRINGING TOGETHER MICHIGAN EDUCATORS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
FOCUSED ON ASSESSMENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES AT THE LOCAL, STATE,
AND NATIONAL LEVELS.**



**MARSAL FAMILY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



[HTTPS://MAC.MEMBERCLICKS.NET/MSTC-2027-REGISTRATION](https://mac.memberclicks.net/mstc-2027-registration)

NOTE FROM THE CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to invite you to the **67th Annual Michigan School Testing Conference**, taking place **February 9–11, 2027**, at the **Sheraton Ann Arbor Hotel**.

For more than six decades, MSTC has brought together educators, assessment professionals, school leaders, researchers, and policymakers to explore current issues in educational assessment and to share ideas that improve teaching, learning, and student success. I hope you'll join us for three engaging days of professional learning, meaningful conversations, and valuable networking with colleagues from across Michigan and beyond.

What to Expect

Pre-Conference Workshops – Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Choose from a selection of full-day and half-day workshops designed to deepen your understanding of effective assessment practices, explore emerging topics in education, and provide practical strategies you can immediately apply in your work.

Conference – Wednesday & Thursday, February 10–11, 2027

Enjoy two inspiring keynote presentations by nationally recognized leaders **Dr. Douglas Fisher** and **Dr. Susan Lyons**, along with more than **36 interactive clinic sessions** featuring innovative ideas, research-based practices, and practical strategies from educators and experts across the country. The conference also includes a timely luncheon update on statewide assessment initiatives from **Michigan's State Testing Director, Andy Middlestead**, as well as numerous opportunities to connect, collaborate, and learn alongside colleagues from across the state.

Registration is Open!

Register early to take advantage of discounted registration rates and reserve your room at the Sheraton Ann Arbor Hotel at the special conference rate. Early registration ensures the best value while securing your place at one of Michigan's premier professional learning events focused on educational assessment.

Share Your Expertise

One of the greatest strengths of MSTC is the opportunity for educators to learn from one another. We encourage participants to consider sharing their successful practices, innovative ideas, and lessons learned by submitting a proposal for a future conference. Watch for the annual call for proposals and help shape the learning experiences of your colleagues.

We Value Your Feedback

Your feedback helps us continue to improve the conference each year. We welcome your thoughts during and after the conference through surveys, conversations with conference staff, or email. We look forward to welcoming you to Ann Arbor this February for three days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. We hope you'll join us!

Ellen Vorenkamp

MSTC Conference Director

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Conference organizers retain the right to change the schedule without notice to participants.

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Full-Day Pre-Conference Workshops

WS-1 Testing Coordinator 101

\$275 Registration*

Are you new to your role as a Test Coordinator? Or do you need a refresher? Do you need training in everything that needs to be done to test your students? Or just a few? Come join staff from the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, College Board, and Work Skills as they provide the steps and resources to help you navigate the summative testing process from start to finish.

John Jaquith, MDE
Dan Evans, MDE
Kristen Strausbaugh, MDE
Teddy Simmons, MDE
Jessica Fenby, MDE
Tina Foote, MDE
Phoebe Gohs, MDE
Jen Paul, MDE
Israel Tuitou, MDE
Bre Bjerketvedt, DRC
Jennifer Park, DRC
James Wilson, College Board
Sarah Slater, College Board
Jessica Nelson, WIN

WS-2 Prompt. Assess. Adjust, Using AI to Supercharge Formative Assessment Practices.

\$250 Registration*

This interactive session explores how generative AI tools can support and strengthen the formative assessment process in K–12 classrooms. Grounded in research and aligned with Michigan’s assessment literacy frameworks, this workshop helps educators understand how AI can assist with feedback, item development, bias review, student reflection, and instructional planning, while keeping teacher expertise at the center. Participants will engage with AI tools hands-on, evaluate their effectiveness through an individualized lens, and collaboratively develop action plans for piloting AI-supported strategies in their schools. At the end, attendees will leave with deeper knowledge of formative assessment, increased confidence in using AI as a thought partner, and a reflective mindset about integrating emerging technologies with professional judgment. Please bring a standard or competency and possibly a lesson plan you would like to use.

Aaron Baughman, MASSP
Mary Helen Diegel, MDE
Mike Maksimchuk, Michigan Virtual

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Conference organizers retain the right to change the schedule without notice to participants.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Half-Day Pre-Conference Workshops

WS-3

Learning Together: The Smarter Balanced Professional Learning Community

\$125 Registration*

Michigan districts are joining together in a statewide Professional Learning Community to explore the full suite of Smarter Balanced assessment resources and their potential to support teaching and learning. This session will provide an overview of the PLC, the resources available through the Smarter Balanced Assessment System and Tools for Teachers, and how participating districts are using these tools to gather actionable evidence of student learning and inform instructional decision-making. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the opportunity and practical ideas for implementation.

Ellen Vorenkamp, MAC

Jen Paul, MDE

Sarah Whitford, Forest Hills Public School

Laura Allen, Pinckney Community Schools

Jennifer Bookout, Milan Area Schools

WS-4

From Data to Direction: Turning Michigan Assessment Data into Action with MICIP

\$125 Registration*

Assessment data is only powerful when it leads to better decisions. This interactive session explores how Michigan educators can move beyond simply reviewing testing results to using data strategically within the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP). Participants will learn practical protocols for analyzing multiple types of data—including assessment, perception, demographic, and process data—to identify needs, determine root causes, and select effective strategies. Through guided examples and collaborative dialogue tools, attendees will experience structured approaches that help teams interpret data without jumping to assumptions or blame. The session also highlights how assessment data connects to goal setting, implementation monitoring, and measuring impact within a continuous improvement framework. Participants will leave with practical tools and facilitation strategies they can use with district or school teams to turn testing data into meaningful improvement actions. The focus is not on collecting more data, but on using the data we already have with greater purpose and clarity.

Dot Blackwell, MDE

Steven Curry, MDE

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

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WS-5

Grading to Support Learning; not just Report Learning

\$125 Registration*

Join ISD and district leaders from across Oakland County as we explore how systems can shift grading practices from relying heavily on compliance-based reporting practices towards more supportive learning practices. This will be an interactive session allowing participants opportunities to network with colleagues, learn from each other, and explore possibilities.

Megan Throm, Oakland Schools
Ninette Soares, Farmington Public Schools,
Tom Maes, Ferndale Public Schools,
Randall Micallef, Walled Lake Schools

WS-6

Disciplinary Literacy & Student-Centered Assessment: Improving Outcomes and Opportunities for All Secondary Students

\$125 Registration*

When we say we want to help students think like mathematicians, scientists, artists, and social scientists, we draw from research to implement practices that equip students to understand and use specialized vocabulary, communication practices, and tools embedded in the disciplines. And when we want to know what students understand, know, and can do to develop that disciplinary literacy, we use strategies and practices embedded in a student-centered approach to assessment. This workshop provides opportunities for participants to explore ideas, approaches, and resources to

leverage equitable assessment in disciplinary literacy to improve outcomes and opportunities for all secondary students.

Jenelle Williams, Oakland Schools
Darin Stockdill, University of Michigan
Kathy Berry, Monroe County ISD
Mary Starr, Michigan Math and Science Leadership Network

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Half-Day
Pre-Conference Workshops

WS-7

Are We Making Progress? Bringing Your MICIP Plan to Life through Monitoring and Adjusting Implementation

\$125 Registration*

You have spent a great deal of time analyzing your data, working through root causes and establishing goals and activities for your MICIP plan. But now comes the most important question: How do you know if it is truly working? This workshop shifts the focus from planning to doing. You will be equipped with practical tools and processes to confidently implement your plan and track your success in real-time. You will walk away with actionable strategies to measure fidelity, scale and reach, and capacity, plus ready-to-use protocols to organize your teams and communicate your improvement efforts.

Kathleen Miller, Shiawassee RESD
TBD

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WS-8

Telling Your Data Story Through Visualization

\$125 Registration*

New to data visualization? We want to enable everyone to create meaningful and accessible visual representations of your data. In this session you will learn ways to tell your data story with Excel/Sheets, Data Studio, and Datawrapper. This session is designed for participants interested in data visualization or new to the identified data tools.

Ninette Soares, Farmington Public Schools
Kirk Weber, Lake Orion Community Schools (Retired)
Sarah Whitford, Forest Hills Public Schools

WS-9

Are we there yet? Using Data to Determine Effectiveness of MTSS Interventions

\$125 Registration*

How do you know if your multi-tiered supports are truly moving the needle for students? This session shifts the focus from simply doing MTSS to measuring its actual success. Participants will explore how to analyze progress-monitoring data objectively to determine when interventions are working, when they need adjustments, and when students have reached their destination. Real-World examples will be shared from Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, and participants will have an opportunity during this session to build a model of Intervention effectiveness monitoring to take back to their districts.

Steven Snead, Oakland Schools
Eileen Derengowski, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools
Randy Micallef, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

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9:00 am - 10:00 am

Opening Keynote Presentation

The Missing Signal: Making Assessment Sensitive to Instruction

We engineer our achievement tests to be reliable, and a reliable score is a stable one—but schooling exists to produce change. Our tests were built to rank, and we are asking them to detect.

This talk examines instructional sensitivity and why the broad inferences our accountability tests support struggle to register the effects of teaching. Drawing on the field's own evidence, we'll trace what our scores are really tracking—and why they can be predicted far more easily than we'd expect. The answer is not to abandon rigorous measurement; it's a matter of grain size. Assessments that support smaller, closer-to-instruction inferences can be both dependable and responsive to learning. The talk ends with what such assessments look like, and what it would take for our accountability systems to evolve toward them.

Dr. Susan Lyons
Principal Consultant
Lyons Assessment Consulting

10:00-10:15 Break and Visit Exhibits

10:30-11:45 am A Clinics

A1 – Conversation with Dr. Susan Lyons

Intrigued by today's keynote and eager to explore ideas more deeply? Here's your chance to join an informal conversation with keynote speaker Dr. Susan Lyons. Bring your questions, reflections, and curiosities as we continue learning together in a more relaxed and interactive setting.

A2 – Update on Michigan's Social Studies Assessment

Michigan's social studies assessment continues to rely on educators statewide. This overview highlights the 2027 M-STEP Social Studies assessment, including alignment to the content standards and blueprint, use of the online tools training (OTT), and functionality differences between context sets and independent items. Committee-developed resources will be available, and dates for upcoming committee review sessions will be shared.

Marianne French, MDE

A3 – Feedback ≠ Evaluation: Intentions and Strategies

How are feedback and evaluation similar and different? See examples of both and see how metacognitive questions can guide you in providing feedback (and teaching students to provide peer-feedback and self-assessment) that moves learning forward.

Kristy Walters, Corunna Public Schools

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

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A4 – Same Engine, Sharper Decisions: Building a Coherent Balanced Assessment System

This session will examine how Michigan's Smarter Balanced interim assessments and the connected Tools for Teachers support instructional decision-making across the school year. Participants will explore the different grain sizes available in the Smarter interim suite and how each interim assessment option serves a distinct instructional purpose. The session will highlight why these grainsize options are especially important for high schools, where varied course pathways require flexible assessment tools. Educators will learn how broader standards-level measures and more fine-grained skill assessments can be used strategically. Educators will also hear from districts currently using the Smarter interim suite and learn more about the statewide implementation initiatives from the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Assessment Consortium. The Smarter Interims run on the same testing engine as M-STEP, MI-Access, and WIDA which provides students with a familiar testing experience and simplifies implementation for schools. Participants will see how this alignment strengthens coherence across statewide assessments. By the end, educators will understand the benefits of using Smarter Balanced's tools, how to select the right interim grain size, and use the resulting data to inform instruction.

Jennifer Paul, MDE

A5 – MI-Access Update and Administration Clinic

This session will help participants learn the essentials for preparing, scheduling, administering, and scoring MI-Access, Michigan's alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This session covers participation guidelines, Alternate Content Expectations, recent administration updates, and practical tips plus training tools for smooth coordination, administration, and materials return. Ideal for new administrators and coordinators involved in MI-Access.

John Jaquith, MDE

Dan Evans, MDE

A6 – Leadership for Assessment Systems Change

Wayne-Westland Community Schools began a four-year journey to create a balanced assessment system that ensures every stakeholder group, from students and teachers to administrators and families, has access to the right evidence and data to answer critical questions about student learning and achievement. This session will share the district's progress, key strategies, and lessons learned in developing an assessment framework that better supports teaching, learning, and student success.

Joe Orban, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Kimberly Pawlukiewicz, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Nancy Schulz, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

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11:30 am - 11:45 am Break and Visit Exhibits

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Lunch and Luncheon Speaker: An Update from Michigan's Assessment Director

During this lunch session, Andy Middlestead will share and discuss the current state of Michigan's K-12 assessment systems and provide updates for Spring 2027.

Andy Middlestead, MDE OEAA

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm Break and Visit Exhibits

1:30 - 2:45 pm B Clinics

B1 – Update on M-STEP Assessment Administration

Need updates for the Spring 2027 M-STEP Administration? This session will outline the important test administration updates and show you the resources that are available to you throughout the administration for a successful M-STEP administration.

Kristen Strausbaugh, MDE

B2 – Inspirational Grading Practices in Reality

Throughout the 2025-2026 school year a team of teachers, administrators and ISD consultants embarked on an exploration of Feldman's Equitable Grading Practices throughout the school year. In this session participants will hear directly from teachers

and administrators about how they applied the learning in their classrooms/buildings/districts. This session is intended to provide resources and a potential professional learning format for other districts, school and ISD leaders to make use of in their roles, as well as to address some of the realities of tackling this difficult work.

*Megan Thom, Oakland Schools
Lee Bonner, Novi School District
Angie Southworth, Novi School District
Katie Brach, Novi School District
Kathleen Aser, Novi School District*

B3 – MI School Data in Action: What Data is Available and How It Supports Continuous Improvement

Whether you are just getting started with the MI School Data portal or use it regularly, this session will highlight new updates and how to apply data in your continuous improvement work. Participants will explore key K–12 reports such as State Assessments, Career & College Readiness, the Special Education Dashboard, and CTE/postsecondary/workforce data, as well as Report Builder tools. The session will demonstrate how MI School Data connects with the MICIP platform and showcase practical resources and templates from the MI School Data Resources page to strengthen data-informed decision-making.

*Kathleen Miller, Shiawassee RESD
Rhonda Provoast, Macomb ISD ,
CEPI Team Member (TBD)*

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

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B4 – Update on Michigan's Science Assessment

This presentation will provide information on the M-STEP Science assessment for spring 2027. In addition, an exploration of the 3-dimensionality of the science topic bundles, clusters, and item specifications will be discussed. A preview of the new online tools training will be shared as well as the science blueprint. The dates for state level committee work on the M-STEP will also be available for those interested.

Jill Scheurer, MDE

B5 – CEAS Survey Elevate Student Voice in Assessment

This interactive session provides an overview of the Components of an Equitable Assessment System and the Surveys developed to better understand how students perceive and respond to the assessment environments they experience. Districts who piloted the CEAS Surveys will share their stories about what they learned from the results and how they are using these data.

John Lane, MAC

Joe Orban, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Ninette Soares, Farmington Public Schools

B6 – Data Storytelling for Assessment Results: Clarity, Context, and Action

Assessment results are only useful if people can quickly understand what the data means and what actions should follow. This session explores how data storytelling principles can transform assessment reports, dashboards, and presentations from overwhelming collections of numbers into tools that support better conversations and decisions. Participants will

learn practical strategies for improving clarity, adding meaningful context, and highlighting actionable next steps when sharing assessment data with educators, leaders, and stakeholders. The session will include real-world before-and-after examples using common school data displays, including benchmark, attendance, and subgroup reporting. Attendees will also explore visual design strategies such as purposeful color use, annotation, and reducing cognitive load to make data easier to interpret. Whether you work with district, building, or classroom-level data, this session will provide immediately applicable ideas for creating clearer and more impactful assessment communication.

Kirk Weber, Lake Orion Community Schools (Retired)

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Break and Visit Exhibits

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm C Clinics

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C1 – NAEP 2026 Results and What It Means for Michigan Educators

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in subjects such as reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and other subjects. NAEP provides unique data provided by no other academic assessment. The same NAEP assessments are administered every state using the same standardized procedures, providing common and comparable measures of student achievement across states and the nation. NAEP 4th and 8th grade reading and math assessments were administered to state representative samples of students in Michigan schools from January to March of 2026. This session will present the most recent NAEP state and national results from 2026, focusing on results most useful for Michigan educators. This session will also discuss the limitations of NAEP data interpretations by describing what NAEP results say and do not say about the reading and math skills of Michigan students.

Brian Lloyd, MDE

C2 – WIN Administration Updates

This session will highlight the latest updates to the WIN Work Readiness Assessments, including new features, streamlined tools, and enhanced resources designed to make the user experience more intuitive and impactful. Participants will gain a guided overview of recent improvements, including upgraded user interfaces, expanded reporting capabilities, and new enhancements for usability and general navigation.

Israel Touitou, MDE
Jessica Nelson, WIN

C3 – Update on Michigan's ELA Assessments

This presentation will provide a thorough overview of the ELA portion of the Michigan Early Literacy & Mathematics Benchmarks Assessments (ELMBA) and the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). There will be a review of the standards assessed, item types, and sample items. A discussion will be facilitated about implications to instruction based on school and district report results.

Nikki Mosser, MDE
Jennifer Grivins, MDE

C4 – Update on Michigan's School Accountability System

New to school accountability? Need to refresh your knowledge of basic accountability concepts? This session provides an overview of Michigan's school accountability systems, reports, and resources.

Matthew Gleason, MDE
Alexander Schwarz, MDE

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

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C5 – Mastering the Logistics of Large-Scale State Testing

Navigating the complexities of state assessment cycles requires more than just following a manual; it requires strategic architecture. Whether you are overseeing a single building or an entire district, the logistical demands of tracking supports, securing environments, and training staff can be overwhelming. This session, led by veteran district coordinators, provides a high-level blueprint for transforming chaotic testing windows into streamlined, repeatable successes. By the end of this session, attendees will be able to: *Implement a centralized tracking system for student participation and accommodation compliance. *Design a comprehensive training process that ensures consistency across different school sites. *Identify common issues before they become misadministrations.

Lindsay Noakes, Kalamazoo Public Schools
Anthony Barnes, Kalamazoo Public Schools
Wessam Abdelaziz, Kalamazoo Public Schools

C6 – Assessment Architects — Designing Quality Together

Curious about what it takes to build quality common assessments that teachers value and use? This session offers a behind-the-scenes look at our high school assessment development process, featuring collaborative structures, teacher feedback, progress updates, and our next steps. Walk away with practical strategies and ideas to support assessment work in your own setting.

Julie Wakefield, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Amanda Laidlaw, Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Michael Adamisin, Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Kimberly Pawlukiewicz, Wayne-Westland Community Schools

C7 – The Collaborative Hub

The Collaborative Hub is a dedicated, drop-in space designed to help you process what you've learned and turn "sessions" into "connections." This is a low-pressure environment to trade notes with peers, share your biggest "aha!" moments, and discuss the practicalities of data in the real world. We're carving out space specifically for the big topics: whether you're navigating the nuances of state testing or looking for more efficient ways to approach data analysis, this is the place to crowdsource solutions and share strategies. Stop by to expand your professional circle, find fresh perspectives on familiar hurdles, and see how others are making their data work for them.

Ninette Soares, Farmington Public Schools
Mike Maksimchuk, Michigan Virtual

4:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Conference Reception

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Michigan Assessment Literacy Facilitators Association Meeting

This is a meeting of the MALFA group, a member organization of those who spend some portion of their job helping others (students and their families, teachers, administrators, and policymakers) to learn more about assessment and thus become more assessment literate. Members and non-members who work to help others become more assessment-literate are welcome to attend.

Ellen Vorenkamp, MAC

Emily McEvoy, Anchor Bay School District

Joe Orban, MAC

Steven Snead, Oakland Schools

ready for the next challenge and determine productive next steps when learning becomes difficult. Along the way, he will explore classroom routines and instructional practices that foster self-regulation, confidence, and perseverance.

Ultimately, the goal is to help students become increasingly independent, reflective, and successful learners who know what to do when they don't know what to do.

Dr Doug Fisher

Professor

San Diego State University

10:30 am - 10:45 am Break and Visit Exhibits

10:45 am - 12:00 pm D Clinics

9:30 am - 10:30 am General Session

What does it take for students to become drivers of their own learning?

Too often, students rely on teachers to direct every step of the learning process. This keynote explores essential practices that develop assessment-capable learners who increasingly assume responsibility for their own success.

Doug Fisher will examine how educators can help students know their current level of understanding, equip them with tools for the learning journey, teach them to monitor their progress and seek feedback, recognize when they are ready

D1 – A Conversation with Dr. Douglas Fisher

Intrigued by the keynote and want to dig deeper into the topic? Here's your chance to have an informal conversation with today's keynote speaker, Dr. Douglas Fisher

Conference organizers retain the right to change the schedule without notice to participants.

D2 – Update on Michigan’s Math Assessment

This presentation will provide a thorough overview of the mathematics portion of the Michigan Early Literacy & Mathematics Benchmarks Assessments (ELMBA) and the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The standards assessed, item types, and sample items will be reviewed. A discussion will be facilitated about implications to instruction based on school and district report results.

*Kyle Ward, MDE
Holly Trotter, DRC*

D3 – Assessment Practices Well Suited to Assess Disciplinary Literacies

When we say we want to help students think like mathematicians, scientists, artists, and social scientists, we draw from research to implement practices that equip students to understand and use specialized vocabulary, communication practices, and tools embedded in the disciplines. And when we want to know what students understand, know, and can do to develop that disciplinary literacy, we use strategies and practices embedded in a student-centered approach to assessment. This workshop provides opportunities for participants to explore ideas, approaches, and resources to leverage equitable assessment in disciplinary literacy to improve outcomes and opportunities for all secondary students.

Jenelle Williams, Oakland Schools

D4 – Update on Score Reporting

The Office of Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) offers robust reporting on assessment results. Come see what is provided when, and how to access student score results. This session will focus on score information available on the OEAA Secure Site, the Dynamic Score Reporting Site, and MiLearn.

*Justin Tokarski, MDE
Kristen Strausbaugh, MDE
John Price, MDE
Phoebe Gohs, MDE*

D5 – From Data to Decisions: K–5 Assessment Under Michigan’s PA 146

Michigan’s PA 146 is reshaping how K–5 schools approach literacy assessment and instructional decision-making. This session explores how screening and progress monitoring data, along with summative and formative classroom assessments can be used to identify student strengths and needs, inform next instructional steps, and support equitable literacy outcomes for all learners. Participants will examine assessment practices aligned to support coherent K–5 literacy systems within an MTSS framework.

Erin Pell, MAISA

12:00 pm - 12:15 pm Break and Visit Exhibits

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm No Speaker Lunch

1:15 pm - 1:30 pm Break and visit Exhibits

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm E Clinics

D6 – Supporting All Learners Through the Formative Assessment Process: Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities and Multilingual Learners

In this interactive clinic, participants will explore research-based strategies for implementing the formative assessment process in ways that increase access, engagement, and student agency. Drawing on guidance developed through FAME's Going Deeper resources, participants will examine how learning targets, success criteria, evidence, feedback, and student ownership can be adapted to meet diverse learner needs. Special attention will be given to common barriers that students with disabilities and multilingual learners may experience and practical approaches educators can use to enhance learning outcomes for all students. Participants will engage with classroom examples, tools, and reflection opportunities that can be applied immediately in their own settings. This session is designed for teachers, instructional coaches, school leaders, and others committed to creating more equitable and responsive learning environments.

Kristy Walters, Corunna Public Schools
Tara Kintz, MAC

E1 – Update on WIDA

This session will provide an overview of the WIDA assessment system. New coordinators are encouraged to attend to learn how to navigate various issues related to identifying, screening, and testing English learners. Participants will also learn about the new K-12 Alternate Screener for potential English learner students who also have significant cognitive disabilities.

Jen Paul, MDE

E2 – Benchmark Assessment Data Fact vs. Fiction: What Your Data Can (and Can't) Tell You

Benchmark assessments are powerful tools, but they aren't crystal balls. This session establishes clear guardrails for proper data usage, helping you demystify what these assessments are actually designed to do. Learn how to leverage benchmark insights for systemic health checks, student screening, and predicting outcomes, while avoiding common pitfalls like over-indexing on single scores or using benchmark data for purposes for which they were not designed.

Steven Snead, Oakland Schools

E3 – Formative Assessment in Practice: What We've Learned from FAME Learning Teams

This session shares insights from Michigan's Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) program, drawing on the experiences of learning teams, coaches, and educators across the state. Participants will explore how teachers develop and refine formative assessment practices, including planning, clarifying learning goals, eliciting and interpreting evidence of student thinking,

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and using that evidence to inform next steps. The session will highlight FAME research findings from survey data over time, including the benefits of the FAME program as well as ways educators address challenges, and the conditions that support sustained implementation. Participants will leave with clear ideas about how to sustain, support, and strengthen assessment for learning practices in their context.

Tara Kintz, MAC

Sophia Schotts, MAC

Kristy Walters, Corunna Public Schools

Kim Fryzel, Marquette Public Schools

E4 – Designing Student-Centered Assessment Systems to Engage all Learners

Too often, students experience assessment as something done to them rather than with them—tasks to complete, grades to earn, and checkpoints to pass. This session explores how shifting to student-centered assessment practices can transform that experience into one grounded in purpose, ownership, and learning. Participants will examine how clear learning goals and success criteria, meaningful performance tasks, and formative feedback can position students as active agents in their learning. Grounded in research and classroom practice, the session highlights how these shifts support engagement, deepen understanding, and strengthen students' sense of competence and belonging. Educators will reflect on their current practices and consider concrete strategies for moving from compliance-driven assessment toward systems that elevate student voice, ownership, and meaningful evidence of learning.

Ellen Vorenkamp, MAC

E5 – P.A. 146 at the Secondary Level: Leveraging What We HAVE to Move Literacy Forward

In this session, participants will explore the elements of the K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia legislation (P.A. 146) that apply to secondary schools. Many of these elements require a balanced, equitable assessment system and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). This session will provide participants with opportunities to consider implications for their context, network with others, and engage with resources to support effective approaches to not only align with the law, but also to honor systems strengths and thrive.

Jenelle Williams, Oakland Schools

Adel DiOrio, Montcalm ISD

E6 – Update on College Board Suite of Assessments

This session includes an overview of the structure and content of the Digital SAT Suite of Assessments, including new tools and features to improve the in-school experience for students and test coordinators.

Israel Touitou, MDE

James Wilson, College Board

Meredith McKelvey, College Board

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Break and Visit Exhibits

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm F Clinics

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F1 – MI Performance Assessment Catalogue: the NEW resource to use to assess 21st Century Skills

This interactive session will explore the new OER website mipac.net. We will understand the anatomy of performance assessments to understand how their design permits us to assess 21st Century Skills that include complex concepts and processes. The performance assessments in this catalogue have been developed by expertly trained MI educators and are aligned to MI Model Competencies.

Gianna Taylor, EdReports

F2 – Assessment Selection and 1% Cap Update

This session will review the Rubric for Assigning Students to Alternate Standards in Instruction and Assessment and new tools to implement this rubric. The session will also include an overview of the submitted plan included in the Waiver request to the US Department of Education on testing more than 1% of students using the alternate assessment. Additional updates and resources may also be shared that will be helpful to IEP teams.

Jerry Cullum, MDE

John Jaquith, MDE

Tori Steingreaber, MDE

Chantel Mozdern, MDE

F3 – Are we there yet? Using Data to Determine Effectiveness of MTSS Interventions

How do you know if your multi-tiered supports are truly moving the needle for students? This session shifts the focus from simply doing MTSS to measuring its actual success. Participants will explore how to analyze progress-monitoring data objectively to determine when interventions are

working, when they need adjustments, and when students have reached their destination. Real-world examples from Walled Lake Consolidated Schools will be shared, illuminating their MTSS framework and tools they use to monitor and adjust supports for all students.

Steven Snead, Oakland Schools

Eileen Derengowski, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

Randy Micallef, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

F4 – Assessment in an AI World

Artificial intelligence is challenging many of the assumptions that have traditionally guided assessment in schools. When students can generate content, solve problems, and access information with AI assistance, educators must rethink what constitutes meaningful evidence of learning. This session explores how AI is reshaping both formative and summative assessment and examines which assessment practices remain effective, which need to evolve, and which may no longer provide reliable evidence of student understanding. Participants will explore practical strategies for assessing thinking, application, reasoning, and transfer while maintaining academic integrity and supporting responsible AI use. Attendees will leave with a framework for designing assessments that better reflect the realities of learning in an AI-enabled world.

Aaron Baughman, MASSP

Conference organizers retain the right to change the schedule without notice to participants.

F5 – PA 146 in Action: Building a System That Works

Moving beyond compliance, this session focuses on bringing PA 146 to life at the system level in ways that are practical, aligned, and sustainable. Participants will explore why the law matters, what it requires, and where common system gaps can slow progress. Through interactive discussion, real-world scenarios, and a clear systems approach, attendees will walk away with actionable next steps to strengthen implementation — not just meet requirements.

*Kathy Miller, Shiawassee ISD
Emily McEvoy, Anchor Bay School District*

F6 – Repeat: Update on M-STEP Assessment Administration

Need updates for the Spring 2027 M-STEP Administration? This session will outline the important test administration updates and show you the resources that are available to you throughout the administration for a successful M-STEP administration.

This is a repeat of Clinic B1 from Wednesday morning.

Kristen Strausbaugh, MDE

F7 – The Collaborative Hub

The Collaborative Hub is a dedicated, drop-in space designed to help you process what you've learned and turn "sessions" into "connections." This is a low-pressure environment to trade notes with peers, share your biggest "aha!" moments, and discuss the practicalities of data in the real world. We're carving out space specifically for the big topics: whether you're navigating the nuances of state testing or looking for more efficient ways to approach data analysis, this is the place to crowdsource solutions and share strategies. Stop by to expand your professional circle, find fresh perspectives on familiar hurdles, and see how others are making their data work for them.

*Ninette Soares, Farmington Public Schools
Julie Wakefield, Wayne-Westland Community School*

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