

## STUDENT SUPPORTS FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Just prior to Christmas break the MDE released a document on student supports and accommodations for the statewide assessments. There are 3 different levels of student support available for the spring statewide assessments: 1) **Universal tools** which are available to ALL students, 2) **Designated supports** which are available to students upon designation from a teacher or administrator that works with the student, and 3) **Accommodations** which require designation by an IEP or Section 504 Plan. In addition there was also a distinction made between embedded supports (those available within the online platform) and non-embedded (external supports that are provided by the district, available for download/order, or provided through paper-pencil administration).

Some of our most commonly used student supports are now available as universal tools for all students on the statewide assessment. Some examples of **universal tools** for the statewide assessment include:

- Breaks (within the same day per test session for M-STEP, no restrictions for MI-Access)
- Individual or small group administration
- Teacher may repeat or emphasize key words in test directions
- Student may restate directions in their own words or ask for clarification
- Visual aids such as magnifier or highlighter
- Text to Speech for MI-Access

Other commonly used student supports are now available as designated supports that can be accessed for specific students on the statewide assessment. A teacher or administrator that works with the student has to designate that support for the student. It is important to note that some of these designated supports require materials that would need to be downloaded or ordered so teams need to plan ahead. Some examples of **designated supports** for the statewide assessment include:

- Noise buffers
- Text to Speech for M-STEP (some subject area/grade level limitations)
- Read aloud (some content limitations and administrator must follow Read Aloud Guidelines)

Some student supports do continue to require designation from an IEP or Section 504 plan. Some examples of **accommodations** for the statewide assessment include:

- Enlarged print
- Test directions or content in ASL
- Scribe for writing

You may notice that the student support of "extended time" did not appear in any of the sections above. That is because MDE has identified "extended time" as a **standard test administration practice** as all assessments are un-timed. It is not necessary to separately identify extended time for statewide assessments in a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. For students with an IEP, it is important to remember that the IEP indicates student need. If there is a support that is listed on the IEP, that is now a **standard test administration practice, universal tool, or designated support**, there are no changes that need to be made to the IEP. It just means that the school must provide that support to the student. The information above is a small sample of the information available in the *M-STEP, MI-Access, & WIDA Student Supports and Accommodations Table* which is available as a link in the December 18th MDE Spotlight on Student Assessment & Accountability and also posted on our ICISD wiki.

## SAS START & END DATES

When doing a Rollover IEP please carefully check your SAS start and end dates on the printed version before publishing. If a start and end date were specified in the original IEP these same start and end dates will carryover into the new Rollover IEP. This would make them out of date for the new IEP. However, if on the original IEP the user selected "yes" to the question "Will the aid/service begin on the initiation date and continue for one calendar year, following the district calendar?" then the Rollover will update these dates to the appropriate start and end date for the new Rollover IEP. If you find that you have incorrect dates in a Rollover IEP please remember that you can still edit any rolled over information prior to publishing.

## IEP FACILITATION TRAINING

Please join us on Wednesday January 21st from 1:00-3:00 for a training on IEP Facilitation. Your presenters will model a format for IEP Facilitation that encourages active engagement from all team members and results in a cohesive IEP that allows all team members to work collaboratively for student success. Please register at [www.ioniaisd.org](http://www.ioniaisd.org) before January 16th.

SPOTLIGHT ON ILLUMINATE

JANUARY 2015

