

# Assessments and Stuff...



## Benchmark Assessments

- Requests for Proposals (RFP)
  - Recommendation of Award Posted
  - Majority of review committee consists of educators from outside of MDE.
  - Create a “pre-qualified” list of vendors for Michigan schools to select from
  - ELA and Mathematics only
  - Online only
  - Effective Fall 2018

## Benchmark Assessments

- Characteristics
  - Highest quality
  - Follows current best practices
  - Minimizes burden to schools
  - Offers accommodation tools for students with disabilities or other needs
  - Timely reports
  - Conforms to the Standards of Educational and Psychological Testing

## Chosen Solutions (2 contracts, 3 solutions)

- NWEA MAP
- DRC –
  - Smarter Balanced Interim Comprehensive & Block assessments, OR
  - BEACON Benchmark system

## Q and some A

- These do not replace M-STEP or other summative testing
- These are optional, but encouraged
- Online for Math and ELA only
- NWEA will work with districts that have current contracts
- We intend to allow schools to roll into these if they have outstanding contracts with other benchmark vendors
- This effort applies to grades 3-8, we are reviewing impacts to K-2, early literacy, etc

## Q and some A

- We are discussing if these are considered “state assessments” now that MDE is providing them.
- If you are currently using a different solution and want to stick with it, we are unaware of any penalties for that.

## More Information:

- Smarter Balanced Interim System
  - [www.smarterbalanced.org/michigan](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/michigan)
  - [DRCSBIPi@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:DRCSBIPi@datarecognitioncorp.com)
  - 763-268-3060
- DRC BEACON
  - [www.drcbeacon.com](http://www.drcbeacon.com)
  - [beacon@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:beacon@datarecognitioncorp.com)
- NWEA MAP Growth
  - [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org)
  - [Barbara.campbell@nwea.org](mailto:Barbara.campbell@nwea.org)

## Next Steps

- Contracts need to be finalized
- MDE will ask vendors to produce information about their solutions as soon as possible, after contracts are done.
- We are having conversations with vendors about how they are going to “make their presence felt” around the state to increase awareness regarding their solutions.
- MDE is crafting a FAQ document as we speak



## What else?

- Spring 2019 – switch from M-STEP to PSAT in grade 8.
- No anticipated other changes to M-STEP
- Entering development of phase 2 of the Parent Transparency Dashboard
- Online Test Security Training and Test Administrator Training (Fall 18) through MVU.

Questions?