April 2, 2025

Dear Pembroke families,

This spring, Birmingham Public Schools students will take state summative assessments designed to provide important information on student knowledge and career- and college-ready progress. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP measures mastery of academic standards and uses question types that reflect real-world skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving. M-STEP tests are designed around the current Michigan State Standards, including the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics and the grade level content expectations for Science and Social Studies. The M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments are administered to students in grades 3-7, and the science and social studies assessments are administered in grades 5, 8, and 11.

In grades 8-10, students will take the College Board PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 assessments to measure student knowledge in Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics. These assessments help prepare students for the SAT with Essay college entrance exam. Students in 11th grade participate in the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which comprises the SAT with Essay, ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment, and M-STEP science and social studies tests.

Students in grades 3-8 and 11 with significant cognitive disabilities may take the MI-Access assessment. The MI-Access alternate assessment is designed for students whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations, known as essential elements, and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are inappropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirement that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

Depending on the grade of your child, they will participate in the assessments listed below on the following dates or within the date ranges –

- M-STEP, online: April 7 – May 16, 2025
- M-STEP, paper and pencil: April 7 – May 2, 2025
- MI Access Alternate Assessments: April 7 – May 23, 2025
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 8): April 10, 2025
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 9): April 9, 2025
- PSAT 10: April 10, 2025
- SAT with Essay: April 9, 2025
- ACT WorkKeys: April 10, 2025

We are asking that you try to have your child in attendance during their assessment dates. If you have to take your child out during the testing time, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible so alternate testing arrangements can be made. It is also important to note that we cannot

allow late students to enter the classroom once the testing session has begun. We ask that your child arrives at school on time, particularly on testing days.

Federal and state law requires that schools have a minimum of 95% participation in state assessments. Students not assessed this year will count against our school's required 95% participation rate, creating an incomplete picture of our school's performance. For this reason, there is no way under state and federal law to "opt-out" of state assessments.

These tests are important for multiple reasons. The district receives data that helps determine how well our students are progressing compared to state averages and other districts. The assessment data will also help to target support and resources for the students who need them most. The test results also inform future state education policies and programs. To allow students to take these assessments and help the district remain in compliance with state laws, each building will arrange for students to take make-up assessments as necessary.

These testing windows apply to all schools across the state of Michigan. You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, www.michigan.gov/oeaa. We recommend beginning your reading with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at www.michigan.gov/mstep.

Sincerely,

Colleen Hoyne

Colleen Hoyne
Principal
Pembroke Elementary School