



# Dowagiac Union Schools

Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve

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Dear Families,

Our students will participate in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), Michigan's statewide assessment program beginning Wednesday of next week. M-STEP measures student progress in key academic areas and helps guide instructional decisions at both the classroom and district level.

### **What will students be tested on?**

Wednesday, April 22 - 6th & 7th graders will take English Language Arts and 8th graders will take science

Thursday, April 23 - 6th & 7th graders will take mathematics and 8th graders will take social studies

*\*8th graders were administered PSAT 8 last week which consisted of math and English*

M-STEP is untimed, which allows students the opportunity to work at their own pace. Some students may finish in one day, while others may continue into the next scheduled session.

- Testing is completed online.
- Students should come to school each testing day with their school issued Chromebook, fully charged and their charger

### **You can support your child by:**

- Ensuring they get a good night's sleep
- Providing a healthy breakfast (students may also eat breakfast at school)
- Encouraging them to take their time and do their best
- Reminding them that this is an opportunity to show what they know

### **M-STEP results:**

- Help teachers adjust instruction to better meet student needs
- Provide insight into strengths and areas for growth
- Contribute to school improvement planning

While this is an important assessment, we encourage students to remain calm and confident. Effort and focus are what matter most.

If you have any questions about M-STEP or your child's testing schedule, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting our students!

Sincerely,

Greg Guernsey, Principal