

THE MICHIGAN ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (MAC) is a nonpartisan and nonprofit professional association of educators who believe that all children deserve a quality education that prepares them for success. Quality education depends on the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and *meaningful assessment* that verifies and advances learning.

## WHERE WE STAND

The MAC also believes that all learners can achieve rigorous, ambitious academic outcomes when they are provided with sufficient learning opportunities supported through meaningful assessment processes. Integral to *meaningful assessment* is **equitable assessment** wherein schools help all students achieve ambitious outcomes through a bias-free, balanced approach to assessment that honors the unique strengths, talents, and identities of all students.

### FOUNDATIONAL CONVICTIONS

We assert that a learning environment that promotes equitable learning opportunities is one where all learners are provided equitable access to *high-quality, differentiated instruction* by qualified educators who hold and communicate *high expectations for all learners* and provide them *sufficient time and opportunities* to achieve ambitious outcomes. Such an education environment includes all of the following features:

#### HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Educators hold and communicate high expectations for all learners and believe they are capable of showing proficiency in the most rigorous outcomes when given enough time and formative support to do so.

#### SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

All learners are individually provided sufficient time and opportunities to learn the knowledge and skills expected by teachers, recognizing that time is an important factor in promoting ambitious outcomes for all students.

#### HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION

All learners are provided equitable access to instruction by qualified teachers who understand their discipline deeply and know how to provide differentiated instruction within that discipline to support all learners.

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Michigan Assessment Consortium believes that integral to meaningful assessment is *equitable assessment* that promotes all the following:

- High-quality assessment by skilled educators
- Assessment for the whole child
- Assessment of deeper learning
- Authentic assessment
- Reflective self & peer assessment
- Socially-conscious assessment
- Collaborative learning and assessment
- Differentiated assessment
- Student-driven assessments
- Student-centered assessment

To that end, we commit to:

- Collaboratively engage with Michigan education stakeholders in the work of advancing assessment literacy and advocating for excellence and equity in assessment practices and systems.

We endeavor to create an equitable assessment environment for all students by ensuring the assessment literacy of all learners and their families, educators, and policymakers while promoting the following:

#### HIGH-QUALITY ASSESSMENT BY SKILLED EDUCATORS

All learners have equitable access to educators who use a variety of high-quality assessment methods to demonstrate proficiency and who are skilled in using both assessment *of* and assessment *for* learning throughout the learning cycle.

#### ASSESSMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHILD

Assessment systems advance the totality of cognitive, emotional, and physical factors that impact the child's learning, development, and overall health and well-being.

#### ASSESSMENT OF DEEPER LEARNING

Assessment is based on learner ability to apply, analyze, and use understanding in relevant ways, across multiple contexts.

#### AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

All learners have opportunities to demonstrate and apply what they understand and know by engaging in new, novel, real-world contexts for genuine audiences.

#### REFLECTIVE SELF- AND PEER ASSESSMENT

All learners have opportunities to reflect and monitor their own progress towards instructional and social and emotional learning (SEL) outcomes. The learning community engages in constructive peer feedback around learning targets and success criteria.

### CONCLUSION

Equity is demonstrated when all students are supported to achieve at a rigorous level. The Michigan Assessment Consortium believes that assessment is a positive, essential, ongoing tool to guide teaching and learning cycles. We will continue to collaboratively engage with Michigan education stakeholders in the work of advancing assessment literacy and advocating for excellence and equity in assessment practices and systems.

*Note: Components on this page are inspired by [Transcend's "Leaps for Equitable 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning."](#)*

#### SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS ASSESSMENT

The assessment process incorporates empathy and understanding, by taking into account individuals' culture and experiences, thereby adjusting to support all learners' success.

#### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

A systemic, facilitated process for assessment builds meaningful relationships and establishes a community of learners that nurtures empathy, fosters belonging, supports well-being, and creates social capital.

#### DIFFERENTIATED ASSESSMENT

The focus, timing, and method of (both formative and summative) assessment, as well as the resources and supports provided, are tailored to each learner's identity, prior knowledge, development, learning styles, and life experiences.

#### STUDENT-DRIVEN ASSESSMENTS

All learners have an active voice in when and how they are assessed using methods that encourage student ownership of their learning and meaningfully draw on their interest and prior knowledge.

#### STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT

Assessments are aligned with and consider each learner's experiences and goals, community context, and perspective.