



**DRC BEACON is an interim assessment for grades 3–8 that illuminates student learning needs and measures progress throughout the year, allowing educators to target instruction and make informed decisions.**

Checking for student learning should not be limited to once at the end of the year in a summative test. Today's students want to know "where they stand," parents want to know if their children are "on track," and teachers need to know how they can adjust instruction in their classrooms in order to maximize student learning. The DRC BEACON interim assessment does exactly that—check for student learning with real-time online reports at multiple points throughout the year.

When students complete the tests, their interim scores can be used to predict a performance score range on the state summative test. DRC BEACON is offered in both English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3–8 in an adaptive online format, with a K–2 offering to follow. The online adaptive format allows students, parents, and teachers to have a more accurate picture of achievement as the item difficulty adjusts to student ability levels and pinpoints a realistic indication and diagnosis of "where students are."

DRC BEACON test item types mirror those found on state summative tests – this gives strong predictability to the summative test and confidence in results. DRC has a strong base in the summative assessment market with proven ability to support states with federal peer review around assessment technical quality.





DRC BEACON provides the feedback needed for grades 3–8 students to master grade-level academic requirements, and to help teachers plan instruction and administrators make well-informed decisions. BEACON's content represents current college- and career-ready expectations. BEACON's adaptive format yields detailed information about student performance with less testing time.

- Up to three administrations during the year provide projected growth data toward end-of-year targets and pinpoint skill areas needing additional attention. Intuitive reports make it easy to track student progress and guide learning all year so you are never without the data you need to make timely decisions about what individual students need, or what programs need to be successful.
- Everyone benefits when there are fewer systems to learn in a school/district. Michigan schools are already familiar with the DRC INSIGHT system.

**DRC BEACON offers accommodations for:**

- TTS (Text-to-Speech) in English for both English Language Arts and Mathematics, and TTS in Spanish for Mathematics
- VSL (Video Sign Language)—English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Closed captioning for Listening items

**Full set of system tools includes:**

- |                     |                   |   |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Line guide        | • Digital notepad | • Masking                                     |
| • Highlighter       | • Global notes    | • Measurement tools                           |
| • Answer eliminator | • Color contrast  | • Protractor, centimeter/inch rulers          |
| • Magnifier/zoom    | • Color overlay   | • Basic, graphing, and scientific calculators |

DRC BEACON is a flexible tool that has been designed to check the progress of students in classrooms throughout the country. To learn more about DRC BEACON, visit [www.drcbeacon.com](http://www.drcbeacon.com) or contact us at:

[beacon@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:beacon@datarecognitioncorp.com)





## Interim Assessments and Digital Library to Support M-STEP

*Michigan teachers can check student progress throughout the school year.*



### Tools for Teachers, Supports for Students

If you're familiar with the M-STEP, you'll be very comfortable using Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. The Interims, used by 10 states, are a state-funded option that Michigan districts can select to provide educators a complete assessment system. The Interim Assessments, aligned to Michigan academic standards for English language arts and math, include the same item types and tools as the M-STEP.

With Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments, educators can:

- ✓ use both the longer Interim Comprehensive Assessments and the shorter Interim Assessment Blocks,
- ✓ see their students' data, including group and item level, as well as individual student responses, and
- ✓ enhance their instruction by accessing 3,000 resources in the teacher-created, teacher-approved Digital Library.

✓ Delivered online

✓ Link interim results to teacher-created playlists to enhance professional learning

✓ Full array of accessibility resources used for M-STEP assessment

✓ Optional and flexible tests that can be administered throughout the year

✓ 88 Interim Assessment Blocks

Learn more about and how to choose the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments at [www.smarterbalanced.org/Michigan](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/Michigan).



## Interim Assessments

The Interim Assessments support teachers by helping them check where students are in their learning and determine where they need additional instruction or if they can move onto more challenging work. They feature:

- ✓ High-quality items built around the same claims and targets used for M-STEP
- ✓ Full array of accessibility resources used for M-STEP
- ✓ 88 interim assessment blocks (IABs)
- ✓ One Interim Comprehensive Assessment per grade level and content area
- ✓ Transparency, allowing educators to access the test questions and their students' responses

### *Highest-rated benchmark assessment!*

*Based on an evaluation of benchmark assessment proposals conducted for the Michigan Department of Education.*

End User	Educators and students
Subjects	English language arts/literacy and mathematics
Grade	Grades 3–8
Delivery	Online, delivered to students using the same online testing system used for M-STEP
Test Types	<b>Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)</b> test the same content as summative assessments and report scores on the same scale. <b>Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)</b> focus on smaller sets of related concepts and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes.
Number	88 IABs total and one ICA per grade and content area
Item Types	Selected-response, constructed-response, technology-enhanced, and performance tasks
Accessibility	Includes the same accessibility and accommodation resources students are familiar with for M-STEP. All ICAs and IABs are fully accessible and include ASL, Braille, and Spanish
Security	Non-secure and non-public*
Scoring	Most items are machine-scored. Some constructed response items and performance tasks are hand-scored locally. Smarter Balanced provides handscoring training materials.
Reporting	Built around the same claims and targets used for M-STEP. Using the interactive, online reporting system, educators will have access to individual student-level data, group-level data, and item-level data, including student responses.

## The Digital Library

The Digital Library is a teacher-created, teacher-approved collection of more than 3,000 instructional resources, saving educators time. Through playlists, teachers can link Interim Assessment results to high-quality instructional and professional learning resources in the Digital Library, helping them implement the formative assessment process in their classroom. Michigan teachers can use these resources to:

- ✓ Engage in Professional Learning Communities
- ✓ Differentiate instruction for diverse learners
- ✓ Engage students in their own learning
- ✓ Improve assessment literacy

“What is so exciting is that you can click on a state standard, go to the playlist, and they will have exact examples of activities you can use right away to teach that objective.”

–4<sup>th</sup> Grade Michigan Math Teacher

End User	Educators
Subjects	English language arts/literacy and mathematics
Grade	K–12 with an emphasis on grade 3–8 and high school
Delivery	Online
Number of Resources	Nearly 3,000 instructional resources, professional learning resources, and playlists (a collection of resources that address a progression in skills or understanding for a topic)
Security	Non-secure and non-public*

\*Non-secure and non-public items provide educators the flexibility to access questions and student responses with interim assessments, and resources in the Digital Library, and prevents items from being posted publicly so that educators can use the interim assessments as a standardized assessment, if they choose to do so.



# MDE Approved

## 2018-19 Benchmark Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education has approved contract awards for Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) as the providers of the optional state benchmark assessments for grades 3 – 8. The MISD has hosted a variety of NWEA events/workshops and will now provide the opportunity for DRC to present their benchmark assessments.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about their two products.



**Interim Assessments  
and Digital Library  
to Support M-STEP**

DRC will present for 90 minutes on each benchmark assessment which will include Q & A at the end of each presentation. Participants will have the opportunity to debrief and collaborate with colleagues once the presentations are completed.

**Date:** June 1, 2018

**Time:** 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

**Audience:** Superintendents, Curriculum Directors,  
Principals, Assessment folks,  
Counselors, Teachers,  
School Improvement Team Members

**Agenda:**

- Welcome and introductions
- DRC Beacon presentation
- Break
- Smarter Balanced presentation
- Lunch
- Debrief and collaboration with colleagues

**Cost:** \$15.00 for lunch

**REGISTER**

**TODAY AT**

**[WWW.MISD.NET](http://WWW.MISD.NET)**

For Questions regarding the workshop please contact Emily McEvoy at [emcevoy@misd.net](mailto:emcevoy@misd.net)

For Registration Questions please contact, Lauri Jurcak  
Phone: 586-228-3492  
E-mail: [ljurcak@misd.net](mailto:ljurcak@misd.net)



44001 Garfield  
Clinton Twp, MI 48038

