



SECTION 4 — MI-ACCESS P/SI ASSESSMENT DESIGN

To understand how students taking part in the MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence (P/SI) Assessments are scored, it is important to first understand how the assessments are designed.

English Language Arts

The MI-Access P/SI English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments have two components: (1) Accessing Information, which includes word study and comprehension; and (2) Expressing Ideas.

In the Accessing Information: Word Study portion of the assessment, students are asked to identify familiar words using print, pictures, and/or objects. In the Accessing Information: Comprehension portion of the assessment, students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of and respond to various forms of information—such as following verbal or written directions, or answering questions from narrative or informational text. The earned points for word study and comprehension are added together to obtain a total Accessing Information score.

In the Expressing Ideas component of the ELA assessment, students are asked to express their ideas about various topics—such as academic subjects, self-advo-

cacy, and effective communication—using one or a combination of response modes, including, but not limited to, writing, drawing, speaking, and/or gesturing. A student's Expressing Ideas score is added to his or her Accessing Information score to obtain a total score for ELA.

Students can earn up to 60 points on the P/SI ELA assessments; however, the number of points per component varies by the type of assessment being administered (Participation or Supported Independence).

Mathematics

The MI-Access P/SI Mathematics Assessments focus on four mathematics areas or strands—(1) Data and Probability, (2) Geometry, (3) Measurement, and (4) Numbers and Operations. The grade 6 through 8 and 11 Supported Independence assessments also include Algebra. These areas or strands reflect a complexity level appropriate for the students being assessed.

Students can earn up to 60 points on the P/SI mathematics assessments; however, the number of points per area or strand varies by the type of assessment being administered (Participation or Supported

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Independence) and, for Supported Independence, by the grade cluster being assessed (elementary, middle, or high school).

Science

The MI-Access P/SI Science Assessments focus on five science areas or strands—(1) Constructing New Scientific Knowledge, (2) Reflecting on Scientific Knowledge, (3) Using Life Science Knowledge, (4) Using Physical Science Knowledge, and (5) Using Earth Science Knowledge. These areas or strands reflect a complexity level appropriate for the students being assessed.

Students can earn up to 90 points on the Participation science assessment and up to 68 points on the Supported Independence science assessment.

Item Formats

All P/SI assessments use two item formats—(1) activity-based observation, and (2) selected response. The only exception is the MI-Access Supported Independence Science Assessment, which uses only selected-response items.

In the activity-based observation format, items are presented to students during familiar classroom activities or routines. These activities or routines provide a performance context in which specific EGLCEs, EHSCEs, and/or EBs can be assessed. In the selected-response format, students are read an item stem or question and asked to select the correct response from two or three picture answer choices.

Core and Embedded Items

Each year, a number of MI-Access P/SI items are released to the public. Therefore, to replenish the item bank, the assessments contain some embedded (or field test) items to replace them. Students' reported scores include only the core items; the embedded items are scored, but are used only for internal data review purposes. The items that are released are compiled into booklets and posted on the MI-Access Web page (www.mi.gov/mi-access). Results for these released items are provided in *Individual Student Reports*, *Item Analysis Reports*, and *Parent Reports*.