

# *The Assist*

Helping Students Access and Make Progress in the General Curriculum

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## **Notes from the Contractor to MI-Access Coordinators**

Greetings from BETA/TASA, the MI-Access assessment contractor! Following are a few brief notes that will serve as a quick reminder of some important dates and procedures related to fall and spring assessment. For more detailed information regarding shipments and ordering additional materials, refer to the August issue of *The Assist*, call the MI-Access Toll-free Hotline at 1-888-382-4246, or send an e-mail message to [mi-access@tasa.com](mailto:mi-access@tasa.com).

### ***MI-Access Functional Independence***

The fall 2006 MI-Access assessment window for Functional Independence starts on October 9 and continues through November 17, 2006. During that window, assessments will be administered to students in grades 3 through 8.

As many of the assessment materials—such as the manual, the Webcast, and the MI-Access calendar—indicate, the MI-Access Functional Independence assessment materials must be shipped back to BETA/TASA no later than November 28, 2006. There are, however, some districts that have already committed to returning materials early. The purpose of early returns is to help the OEAA and BETA/TASA staff collect student data that can be used to verify that the scoring system is calculating student results accurately.

A detailed letter outlining the purpose of the Early Returns Program was recently sent to all districts, along with a confirmation form committing the district to early returns. If your district is interested in participating in the program but have not yet completed the form, please fax it back to BETA/TASA on or before October 30. Once committed, districts must ship their materials so that BETA/TASA receives them no later than November 14, 2006.

### ***Participation and Supported Independence Version 1.5 Pilot***

The table below lists some important dates concerning the P/SI v1.5 pilot assessments that are being administered this fall to students in grades 3 through 8 and 11.

Important MI-Access P/SI v.1.5 Pilot Dates	
MI-Access Live Webcast	September 27
P/SI v1.5 Pilot Assessment Materials Shipped	October 11
P/SI v1.5 Pilot Assessment Window	October 16 - November 10
P/SI v1.5 Pilot Assessment Materials Return Date	Ship to BETA/TASA no later than November 10

As the table shows, the final return date for materials is the same as the closing date of the pilot assessment window. Therefore, districts may choose to schedule their assessments to ensure completion *before* the last day of the window so that materials can be returned on time. As always, detailed information on distributing, administering, and returning the P/SI v1.5 pilot assessment materials can be found in the pilot manual at [www.mi.gov/mi-access](http://www.mi.gov/mi-access).

Please note that the OEAA will administer the *operational* P/SI v1.5 assessments to students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 during the spring MI-Access assessment window (February 19 – April 6, 2007). The results from the operational assessments are the ones that will be used for accountability purposes (Education YES! and NCLB).

***Spring 2007 MI-Access Assessments***

In the coming months, district coordinators will receive a great deal of correspondence about the spring 2007 MI-Access assessments. Although many districts are currently focused on the fall 2006 window, BETA/TASA wants to remind everyone that important dates for spring 2007 are included on the *2006/2007 MI-Access Calendar as well as in the 2006/2007 MI-Access Functional Independence Coordinator and Assessment Administrator Manual*.

For example, district coordinators will want to make a special note that the MI-Access spring 2007 Pre-ID process will take place between December 1, 2006 and January 6, 2007, which is slightly *earlier* than last year. They should also note that MI-Access has a different assessment window closing date than the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). Given these differences, BETA/TASA is asking districts to mark their calendars now and plan ahead!

From all of us at BETA/TASA, we wish everyone the best in navigating the assessment process throughout the year. Thank you!