

Starting Smarter

You are the expert on your child. Over the course of a school year, you receive lots of information on how your child is performing in school that combine to give you a more complete picture of your child's academic progress. In addition to report card grades and class tests, you can **use test score reports to better understand your child's strengths and areas in need of improvement** to start a meaningful conversation with your child's teacher about how to better support learning at home.



The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will be implementing a Starting Smarter web page for Michigan's parents in mid-September. Families will find information in parent-friendly language that will help them:

- understand their child's M-STEP score report
- locate resources to support learning at home and school
- prepare for an effective Parent Teacher Conference
- see and practice with online M-STEP practice questions and tools
- learn about the Read by Grade 3 law
- understand what academic standards students are expected to master
- learn about the accessibility tools and supports available to students during testing

The MDE will let schools and districts know when Starting Smarter for Michigan is available in the fall. Watch for information from your school on how to access the web page in September.