



Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant

22itrig.org

March 5, 2014

Weekly Update



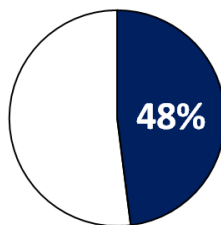
Report on Michigan Testing Readiness

The 2013 Michigan Technology Readiness Ratings for Online Testing serve as indicators of the technology readiness of schools and districts to conduct online tests in 2014. MTRAX readiness ratings have been calculated for districts and schools, based on the data provided by their representatives.

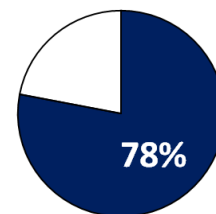
This state report provides a statewide snapshot of the percentage of districts and buildings that are technology ready for online testing based on minimum testing specifications.

Percentage of All Districts Ready for Online Testing

Percentage of **Districts** that are Test Ready*



Percentage of **Buildings** that are Test Ready*



*Based on the data from the December 15, 2013 data snapshot.

78% of school buildings were considered ready for online testing. Although 78% of buildings in the state are considered to be ready, there are only 48% of districts that are considered to be prepared to give online testing. There are many reasons for the wide discrepancy in these two numbers, including:

1. In order for a district to be considered test ready, all of its buildings must be scored as test ready. For example, a district with four buildings must have **all** four buildings score as test ready for the district to be considered as test ready. If even one of the buildings is not prepared to administer online testing, the district is not considered to be ready for online testing.
2. If the district is the Internet Service Provider (ISP) for its schools, then there must be adequate district Internet bandwidth available to accommodate all simultaneous users from all schools across the district.

Summary Results*

- Percentage of **Districts** that are **Test** Ready: 48%
- Percentage of **Districts** that are **Network** Ready: 57%
- Percentage of **Buildings** that are **Test** Ready: 78%
- Percentage of **Buildings** that are **Device** Ready: 86%
- Percentage of **Buildings** that are **Network** Ready: 84%

- Number of test ready devices: 387,108 (80% of devices reported)
- Number of upgradable devices: 31,109 (7% of devices reported)

*All numbers include Windows XP computers, which will likely not be ready at the time of testing. The actual numbers are considerably lower without these computers included. District Readiness, for example drops to 35%--See Operating Systems below.

Important Information

A. Operating Systems

Background Information

Of the 387,108 test ready devices in the state, **81,061** or 21% are currently running Windows XP as their operating system. Microsoft has announced that on April 8, 2014, there will be no more security updates or technical support for the Windows XP operating system. PCs running Windows XP after April 8, 2014, should not be considered fully protected.

District Action Steps

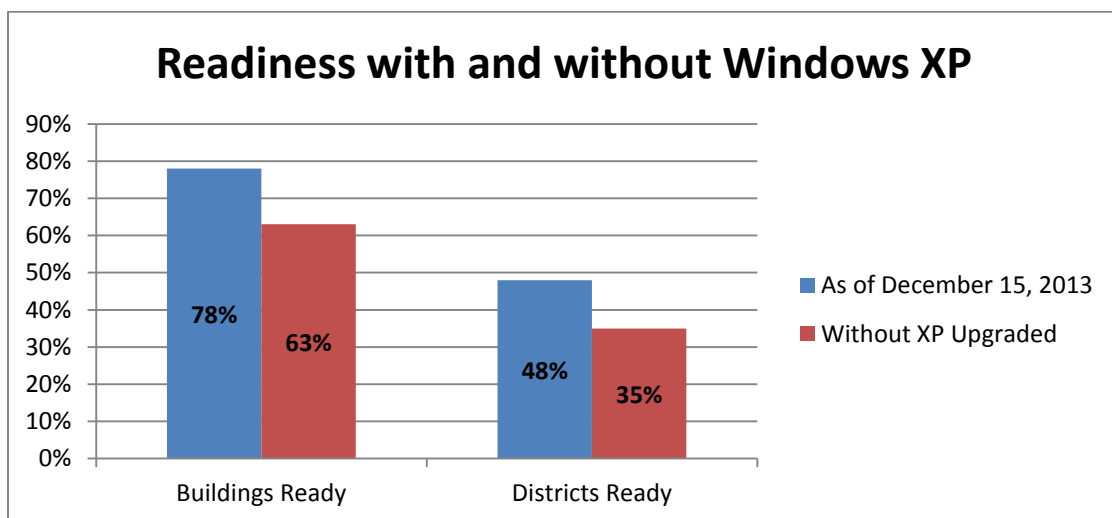
While SBAC has stated that the online assessment will run on Windows XP until the spring of 2015, it is strongly urged that districts replace the Windows XP operating system as soon as possible.

From the Microsoft website:

If you continue to use Windows XP after support ends, your computer will still work but it might become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses. Also, as more software and hardware manufacturers continue to optimize for more recent versions of Windows, you can expect to encounter greater numbers of apps and devices that do not work with Windows XP.

In general, running a device with a non-supported operating system is not a recommended practice, but since the end of support for this product has been so highly publicized, there is a fear that devices continuing to run Windows XP beyond the support date will be highly susceptible to security attacks.

Even if a district chooses not to upgrade immediately, Windows XP will only be supported by SBAC as an online testing operating system through the spring of 2015. At that time, all devices will need to be upgraded to a supported operating system or be replaced in order to support online testing. Based on current data, if devices are not upgraded, **the state readiness will drop to 35% of districts and 63% of buildings** being considered test ready.



B. Testing Changes

Background Information

When MTRAx data was collected from districts in December 2013, parameters for the SBAC testing had not been well defined by the Michigan Department of Education. During that collection, certain testing specifications were left up to districts to define. In some instances, the lack of definition of specifications allowed districts to modify their testing data to achieve an artificial test readiness score. Districts were able to enter test sessions per day up to 10, test sittings per student up to 9, and the test window up to 60 days.

No official announcement has been made by the MDE Bureau of Accountability and Assessment (BAA) to the field regarding testing specifications. In order to clarify testing parameters BAA has directed MTRAx to lock down the values for certain testing specifications. This change dramatically changes the status of building and district readiness. Specifically, those parameters are now:

Test sessions per day: **2**

Test sittings per student: **4**

Test window: **20 days**

Definition of terms:

Test Session: *The periods that will be made available for testing are referred to in MTRAx as sessions.*

Test Sittings: *Each period that an individual student is tested is described in MTRAx as a test sitting.*

Test Window: *The test window is simply the number of days during which testing will be conducted. These days might be consecutive or not, and may represent days where testing is conducted throughout the day or simply during certain periods.*

Essentially, testing can now be thought of in a different manner. For the two subject areas tested (English-language arts and mathematics) students will be tested in two half-day sessions. One session will be a standards-based computer-adaptive test and the second session will be a performance task. For planning purposes, leaders should plan on two days to fully test each student in both subject areas.

District Action Steps

Since the new parameters have been locked down in the MTRAx tool, they have caused the readiness of both the building and the district to change. District leaders should review their readiness reports, as they have changed based on the BAA changes to the calculations, which have not been shared with the field, and make decisions related to their test readiness purchasing and implementation based on the new reports. It is also strongly recommended that district leaders maintain a continuous dialogue between the technology and curriculum leadership as online testing plans continue to evolve.

District Action Steps (cont.)

If additional refinements are made to testing parameters in the future, those will also be applied within MTRAx. Districts should be mindful that if changes are made, it can impact their readiness and they should monitor those changes on a regular basis by running reports for the district and all buildings within the district. It is anticipated that any **future** changes would be communicated by the MDE or BAA before they would be made in MTRAx. Since MTRAx was built for districts to use as a method for continuously monitoring test readiness, it is recommended that districts regularly review their data and reports for accuracy and changes.

C. Network Readiness

Background Information

Network readiness is currently being measured both at the building and district level. This is done to ensure that the district and each individual building have the network capacity to run online testing. Since there are many factors that comprise a network and are factors of readiness, MTRAx attempts to incorporate as many of those elements as possible. In many cases, the readiness calculations are currently only as good as the data being entered into MTRAx.

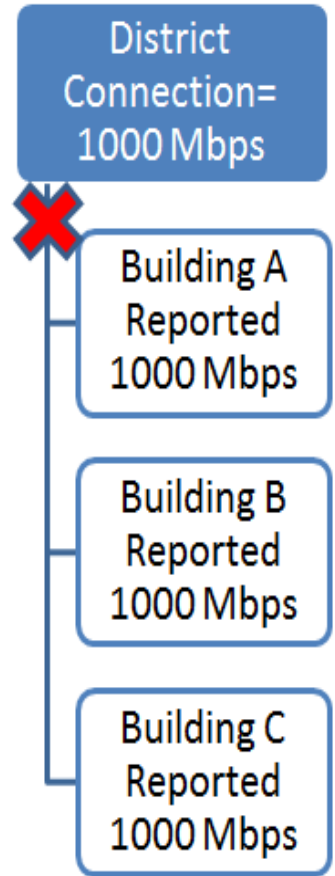
The current data shows that 84% of buildings are network ready, but only 57% of districts are network ready. This discrepancy is caused by some notable disparities in the data being reported. In most cases, where a district is reported as the Internet Service Provider, there must be enough adequate district Internet bandwidth available to accommodate all simultaneous users from all schools across the district. If reported data does not support this claim, the district will not be considered test ready.

There are 989 buildings that report the same or greater Internet bandwidth than the total bandwidth reported by their district. Of those, 912 are multiple building districts. This logically leads to one of two conclusions: either building bandwidth was greatly overestimated or district bandwidth was greatly underestimated. It is believed that building bandwidth is most likely being overestimated, causing building readiness to be artificially inflated.

District Action Steps

Districts should review their district and building Network Readiness Reports for accuracy and update them if necessary. In particular, since utilization data is critical for calculating network readiness, districts should update that data on a regular basis. The utilization percentage should be based on an aggregate average of usage for the district, not a single point of usage that might not represent all usage points during the school day.

In addition, districts need to review the Internet Connection Speed for the building and the district for accuracy. This review should include ensuring that the accumulation of the building bandwidth availability does not exceed the total of the reported bandwidth availability at the district level. This should more closely align the building readiness and district readiness percentages.



Full Report

The full Michigan Technology Readiness Ratings report is available at:

http://22itrig.org/downloads/mtrax/mtrax_state_rpt_20140224_103611_1.pdf

UPCOMING MEETINGS & DEADLINES



March 5, 2014
- Device Purchasing Advisory Mtg
- BAA/Ed Tech Mtg

March 6, 2014
- Classroom Readiness Advisory Mtg
- TRIG Project Manager Mtg

March 10, 2014
- TRIG Update w/ Wexford-Missaukee

March 12, 2014
- MACUL Annual Conference
- SEN Advisory Mtg