



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 7 – January 21, 2005

Winter MEAP Test Information Available Online

Winter 2005 MEAP Test Administrator Manual

The MEAP Test Administrator Manual for the winter 2005 operational tests has been posted to the MEAP Web page at www.michigan.gov/meap. Districts received printed copies of the manual with their winter testing materials. Winter test materials were due to start arriving in schools the week of January 10, 2005.

Stand Alone Field Test Manuals

The MEAP Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals for English Language Arts (grades 3, 5, 6, and 8) and Mathematics (grades 3, 5, 6, and 7) Stand Alone Field Tests are also available on the MEAP web page. Those district and building MEAP assessment administrators in schools that have been selected to participate in the field testing, should review this manual prior to the beginning of the winter test window. Districts received printed copies of the manual with their winter testing materials. Winter test materials were due to start arriving in schools the week of January 10, 2005. These manuals were produced by the Scoring Contractor. Questions regarding field test materials or testing should be directed to Measurement Incorporated at 877-683-6883.

OEAA's Professional Assessment & Accountability Practices for Educators

Now is a good time for district MEAP coordinators to become familiar with the above document recently approved by the State Board of Education. This document (available on the OEAA Web page at www.michigan.gov/oeaa and on the MEAP Web page at www.michigan.gov/meap) outlines appropriate and inappropriate assessment administration practices before, during, and after the assessments.

Professional Assessment & Accountability Practices for Educators is has been printed and shipped by the MEAP Scoring Contractor and should be arriving in districts and schools shortly. Section 9: Roles and Responsibilities of the document are perforated for easy removal so it may be duplicated and distributed to anyone involved in the MEAP assessments.

Winter 2005 MEAP Video Conference

The PowerPoint presentation and the Questions and Answers document from the January 6, 2005, video conference are available on the MEAP Web page at www.michigan.gov/meap in the "What's New" section.

Information on Current and Future MEAP High School Tests

The message from Dr. Jeremy Hughes dated January 13, 2005, is available on the MEAP Web page at www.michigan.gov/meap. This document provides as much information as we currently have on the future of the high school tests.

Mathematics Assessment – Use of Calculators

In order to clarify the issue on the use of calculators during the mathematics assessment, the following has been added to the Winter 2005 Test Administrator Manual.

Calculators, including graphing calculators, are permitted, though not required, on all parts of all MEAP mathematics tests. Calculators with a QWERTY style keyboard are not permitted. Calculators built into cellular phones or other wireless communication devices or that can communicate wirelessly with other calculators are not permitted. Students may not share calculators.

Calculators that can make noise must have the sound feature turned off. Calculators that have paper tape must have the tape removed. Calculators with power cords must have the cord removed.

It is important that students are made aware of the calculator rules prior to testing. Doing so will allow them to bring an acceptable calculator if they so desire.

Individual Test Administration Required for Oral and Audio Accommodations

In the case of accommodations involving the reading of a test or the use of audio versions, the test **MUST** be administered on an one-on-one basis. This means the student must have his/her own equipment (CD player or cassette) or a reader (a LIVE audio version) must only read to an individual student, not a group of students.

Assessment Development Update

Winter 2005 Field Test Feedback Forms

If you are the coordinator for a district where schools have been selected to participate in the field-testing in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 for mathematics and 3, 5, 6 and 8 for English Language Arts, this applies to you. In order to help us develop the most effective assessments for next fall, we have developed a feedback form for each test administrator to fill out during the field-testing. It is arranged by section of the test, with one page for each section. **We recommend that each test administrator complete each page while administering the corresponding section, since the feedback form requests specific information that can only be obtained during test administration.**

These responses will be summarized and used to guide us as we develop the assessments for next fall. If you have any questions about these forms, please contact the MEAP office by calling us at (877) 560-8378 or via email at MEAP@Michigan.gov.

Third Graders May Mark in Test Booklets

During the MEAP videoconference, emphasis was given to an error in instructions related to students writing in test booklets for the third grade stand-alone field test. Further consultation with the scoring contractor has established that there was no error:

Third grade students are encouraged to use the blank space in the test booklets for doing their work, so long as they do not make stray marks near the answer bubbles.

In ELA, they can underline, highlight and write notes in the margins of the reading passages. Before drafting their response to Writing from Knowledge and Experience (which will be scored as a rough draft), students can jot notes or plan in the margins, at the top of the lined pages, or in any of the white space in the Writing from Knowledge and Experience section of the test booklet.

In mathematics, they can work out the answers to the problems in the blank spaces on the pages.

In both instances, these are no different from what students in other grades can do in their test booklets. The major difference is that third graders do not have separate answer documents; as a result, they have to be careful not to inadvertently make marks in the bubble areas that the scanner might interpret as incorrect answers.

State-assessed GLCE Review

During the review of Michigan's State-assessed GLCEs, we received detailed comments from over a dozen ISD curriculum specialists and elementary and middle school teachers. These comments have been summarized and delivered to the Michigan Department of Education's curriculum and assessment specialists for their review. We anticipate that initial analysis of the responses will be available sometime this month. We will share the results in the *MEAP Coordinator Update* as soon as they are ready for dissemination.

Educators Analyze Alignment of Tests to Michigan Curriculum Framework

On January 5, 2005, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed five bills requiring that school districts use a college entrance examination as part of the high school assessment beginning in Spring 2007. Because of requirements of NCLB and EdYes! there is a need to ensure that the assessments that are used will be aligned to the State's content standards.

Under the guidance of Dr. Norman Webb from the University of Wisconsin's Center for Educational Research, a group of 27 educators analyzed the alignment of the Michigan High School Test, the ACT, and the SAT I and SAT II to the Michigan Curriculum Framework. The study was conducted on the campus of Michigan State University on December 2, 3 and 4, 2004, and involved twelve Michigan educators and fifteen educators from other states.

The alignment followed a four-step process. In the first step, the reviewers read the objectives for each Michigan Curriculum Framework standard and reach consensus on the appropriate depth-of-knowledge (DOK) of each. In the second step, the reviewers independently code a sample of five items and then discuss their assigned DOK levels and the objectives corresponding to each item. Some items may have up to three objectives (one primary and two secondary), but only one DOK level. In the third step, the reviewers independently code all the items from each test. In the fourth step, reviewers are encouraged to offer their opinions about the quality of the Curriculum Framework and test items.

Clarification of High School MEAP Scores Used to Earn a Michigan Merit Award

In accordance with Michigan law (Public Act 94 of 1999), the Michigan Merit Award office (Michigan Department of Treasury) considers four high school MEAP test scores: Math, Science, Reading and Writing. The following concerns the Reading and Writing scores.

The MEAP office (Michigan Department of Education) releases three separate scores related to the high school MEAP English Language Arts test: a separate score for Writing, one for Reading, and one as an overall ELA score. The overall ELA score is NOT used for determining eligibility for a Michigan Merit Award.

Students must not assume that their overall ELA score is the same as their Writing and Reading scores. An overall ELA score of Level 1 or 2 does not necessarily mean the student received a Level 1 or 2 in both Writing and Reading. It is possible, for example, to receive a Level 2 overall ELA score, and yet only score a Level 3 in Writing. (There are numerous variations of this example.)

If you or any of your students have questions about MEAP scores or the Michigan Merit Award, contact your school's Guidance Office first. If you then need further clarification, call the Michigan Merit Award office toll-free 888/4GRANTS (this is a NEW toll-free number).

MEAP Contact Information

OEEA web site: www.michigan.gov/oeaa

MEAP email address: meap@michigan.gov

MEAP web site: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186