

### **Educators: Review Items for Future MEAP Assessments!**

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is in the process of switching to Michigan educator-developed MEAP assessments. In order to ensure the highest quality for our assessments, all MEAP assessment items developed for the grades 3 through 9 are being pilot tested with a small number of students, prior to statewide field testing.

As a part of the pilot testing process, MEAP staff and Harcourt Assessment will be conducting statewide item reviews in early February. During that time, Michigan educators will be given an opportunity to review the pilot test items, under strict conditions of security and confidentiality, to provide comments for improving the draft assessment items. The item review sessions will be a half-day, as shown in the table below.

Date	Location	Time
February 1, 2006	Forest Hills Public Schools Fine Arts Center 600 Forest Hills Ave. Grand Rapids, Michigan	9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
February 2, 2006	Wayne-Westland Public Schools John Glenn High School (tentative) 36105 Marquette St. Westland, Michigan	3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
February 3, 2006	M-TEC at Kirtland Community College-Gaylord 60 Livingston Blvd. Gaylord, Michigan	9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Each district will have the opportunity to send up to four representatives to the one location of their choice (one for each of the four content areas—English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies). Space at each facility is limited to 40 participants for each content area. Priority will be given to districts that participated in the pilot tests, with the remaining space available on a first come, first served basis.

Interested participants will have until January 20, 2006 to sign up online by going to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=412601655758>

### **Training for MME Pilot Schools This Week**

Thirty-seven high schools that were selected and have agreed to participate in the Spring 2006 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) Pilot Test will receive training on January 11-12 at three sites: Detroit, Grand Rapids and Baraga.

Pilot testing will occur on April 6-7 or April 11-12 (depending on school spring vacation schedule). Participating schools will administer the MEAP high school assessment (HSA) in its entirety, as well as

the ACT and WorkKeys assessments. The purpose of the Spring 2006 Pilot is to equate the MME measures to the current MEAP HSA, so that the Department can obtain U.S. Department of Education approval to shift to the MME in the 2006-2007 school year.

Schools were selected for the pilot test through a stratified random sampling process that ensures representation of the total population of Michigan public high schools.

## **Posting of Preliminary Reports for Fall 2005 Grades 3-8**

Fall 2005 preliminary reports (raw scores only) for Grades 3-8 for a number of districts, public school academies and private schools are now available on the OEAA secure Web site. Reports for additional schools will be posted as they are completed by the scoring contractor. Notification will be made via email and listserv when additions are posted.

The raw score reporting package includes the following:

- Preliminary Individual Student Report
- Preliminary Class Roster Report
- Preliminary Class Item Analysis Report

The purpose of the preliminary reports is to provide administrators and classroom teachers with item level results for current students. Performance level data and summary reports for schools and districts will be included in the final reports to be provided in the next few weeks. In order to use these reports most effectively, educators will need to reference the Released Item documents for each subject and grade level, and the Fall 2005 Guide to Reports, Grades 3-9.

The Released Item documents for ELA, Science, and Social Studies, as well as a *preliminary* Guide to Reports are available online at <http://www.michigan.gov/meap>. The Math Released Item documents for grades 3-8 and the complete Guide to Reports are expected to be available soon. Final reports will be available on the MEAP secure Web site and printed copies will be sent to districts and schools in late January pending State Board of Education approval of the MEAP performance standards.

Please note that copyright permissions for the Reading Selections for the Fall 2005 ELA Released Items did not include Internet permissions. Ten printed copies of the Reading Selections will be sent to each school and district with the final reports.

Both the preliminary and final reports represent a major redesign of the reporting package and are the result of an extended effort on the part of MDE/OEAA staff, and local, state, and national educators and advisors. The OEAA is indeed grateful for their expertise and assistance. In addition, the OEAA invites all educators to review these reports with a critical eye. We encourage you to send your suggestions, comments, and reports of any issues via email to [meap@michigan.gov](mailto:meap@michigan.gov). All emails will be distributed to the appropriate individuals for review.

At the present time, there is a known issue on the Preliminary Individual Student Report for Mathematics. At some grade levels and forms, the number of points possible reported for the linking items from the previous grade test is in error. This problem has been resolved and will be corrected in the final reports.

## **Released Items on the MEAP Web Page**

Released items from Fall 2005 Grades 3-9 assessments are being posted to the MEAP Web page as they are developed. Currently, the documents for English Language Arts (ELA), Science and Social Studies are completed. Documents for Mathematics are being prepared and will be posted upon completion.

Ten printed copies of the Fall 2005 ELA Released Items **Reading Selections** for Grades 3-8 will be mailed to each school and district with their final reports. Copyright permissions did not include publication via the Internet or in electronic form.

## State Board Makes Decisions on AYP for 2005-06

At the December meeting of the Michigan State Board of Education, several decisions were made regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) policies:

- **AYP Determination by Grade Range**  
Michigan plans to set separate statewide AYP targets for each grade level, and then combine the separate grade level targets to develop a target for the school as a whole, using a weighted average of the statewide targets for the grades tested at the school.
- **Minimum Group Size**  
The Board approved a formula for minimum group size that is based on 30-plus-10% with a variation that would limit group size increases for smaller schools. For smaller schools the group size rules would be as follows:

Number of Student Tested	Minimum Group Size
100 or less	30
101-125	35
126-150	40
151 or more	30 plus 10%

- **Graduation Rates**  
The Board agreed to postpone any increase in the graduation rate target until the method of calculating the graduation rate is changed to the cohort methodology.

Board recommendations are posted at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ITEM\\_N\\_143854\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ITEM_N_143854_7.pdf). These policies will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for approval, as amendments to Michigan's Accountability Workbook. If these recommendations are approved, they will be used to prepare this school year's School Report Cards.

For additional information please contact Paul Bielawski at [bielawp@michigan.gov](mailto:bielawp@michigan.gov) or at (517) 335-5784.

## New K-8 Grade Level Content Expectations Companion Document

A new K-8 Grade Level Content Expectations Companion Document (Revised v.12.05) has been released by the Michigan Department of Education.

The Office of School Improvement, in collaboration with educators, has developed an exciting new companion document to assist with the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE). The Across the Grades K-8 document provides a look at each GLCE in a matrix format across the grades. This "cross-grade" format allows grade levels to be easily compared with each other.

The Across the Grades K-8 document, released as v. 12.05, refines and clarifies the original expectations while preserving their essence and original intent. As a result of this revision process, the 12.05 version provides Michigan educators with a more teacher-friendly resource. The process also greatly improved the continuity from one grade to the next and better ensured coherence, both in content and pedagogy. The document's forward gives specifics on the types of changes made.

You will find three separate matrices: Reading, Writing and Speaking, and Listening and Viewing. Within each grade band, the expectations have been aligned to show progression of a concept from one grade to the next. If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact Ms. Betty Underwood at [underwoodb@michigan.gov](mailto:underwoodb@michigan.gov) or Ms. Gale Sharpe at [sharpeg@michigan.gov](mailto:sharpeg@michigan.gov).

The best way to view the documents is to print them in landscape view on 11x17 paper and fold in half to assemble in booklet form.

Educators can access this new document by visiting the GLCE web page, [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753\\_33232\\_33234-132024--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_33232_33234-132024--,00.html). Your assistance in the dissemination of this document to colleagues, districts, and professional organizations that you are affiliated with would be greatly appreciated.

## Spring Testing for Nonpublic High School Students

Nonpublic school juniors and seniors whose own school will not administer MEAP tests in Spring 2006 may test at a MEAP Test Center in southeast Michigan. **The postmark deadline for registrations is February 4.** To register for Spring testing, visit our Web site ([www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap)) then click on "MEAP Test Centers" near the bottom of the page. **Students whose own school administers the MEAP tests are not eligible to test at a MEAP Test Center.**

If you have questions about the \$2500 Michigan Merit Award, which is based on MEAP test scores, call the Merit Award Office toll-free at 888-447-2687. OEAA cannot provide information on the Michigan Merit Award program. If you have questions about MEAP Test Centers, call Bob Nelson at 517-241-4987.