



# OEAA Update

Produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), for all who administer statewide assessments in Michigan. Please post in some conspicuous location.

**Website:** [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa) **Toll-free:** 877-560-8378 **Email:** [oeaa@mi.gov](mailto:oeaa@mi.gov)

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## Item Writing Workshops 2009

*Summer Opportunity for Educators: Write Items for Future Assessments*

The OEAA is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated Michigan educators to help us write items for future statewide assessments (MEAP, MME, SCAS). Training and item writing will occur in Lansing in Summer 2009. New participants will be trained in the principles of writing items and aligning them to the Michigan Content Standards. Sessions are scheduled for:

- June 16, 17 and 18 - Mathematics
- June 17, 18 and 19 - Social Studies
- June 23, 24 and 25 - Science
- June 23, 24, 25 and 26 - ELA (Session 1)... and August 5 and 6 - ELA (Session 2)

You may apply to participate in ONE content area only, and must attend ALL scheduled days for that content area (three days for Mathematics, Social Studies or Science; six days for ELA). Item writers will receive reimbursement for travel expenses, a base stipend of \$600, and a per-item payment for each item that passes review by our Contractor (Pearson).

Training and item writing will be held at Lansing Community College's West Campus, five miles west of the downtown Lansing campus.

Interested educators who have not previously served on a Michigan Item Writing Team have until April 3, 2009, to apply. Go to [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap), then click on "Item Writing Workshops 2009" for complete details.

If you have questions regarding these workshops, please contact Dr. Bill Brown at 517-335-0568, or via email at: [BrownB6@mi.gov](mailto:BrownB6@mi.gov).

## MME Focus Points

We have initiated a series of weekly emails that will be sent to schools from now through the end of March to help schools administer the Spring 2009 Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in manageable "bite-size chunks." If schools address the points critical for just the week in focus, we think Spring 2009 MME administration will go much smoother.

If you are not already receiving these weekly Focus Point emails, you can join the MME email network (ListServ) by visiting [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme), then clicking on "Subscribe to MME Email Network." It's free... it's fast... and we don't share your email address with anyone else.

## Spring 2009 ELPA

Materials ordered for the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) during the Initial Material Order period should have arrived by now. Depending on your district's preference, these materials may have been delivered directly to schools or to the district office for distribution. If you are expecting materials but have yet to receive them, please contact your District Coordinator for ordering information. At this time, Districts can place requests for additional materials, check the status of an existing order, or even track packages from the OEAA Secure Site ([www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure)). This functionality is available from within the Secure Site under "Material Orders/Tracking."

The popularity of the "ELPA Speaking Items - Scoring Training DVD" has encouraged us to rethink which mediums could be used to deliver this training tool more efficiently. We are pleased to announce the availability of a web viewable version of the training DVD. The video, now titled, "Scoring Training for the ELPA Speaking Items," is available under the 'Video on Demand' section on [www.mistreamnet.org](http://www.mistreamnet.org).

Please consult the table below for a handy reference to where ELPA information can be found:

	Directions for Administration (DFA)	Test Coordinator's Manual (TCM)
Directions to tell students on the testing days	✓	
Rubrics for the Speaking section	✓	✓
Information on ordering materials		✓
Information on packaging and returning materials		✓
How to prepare for the ELPA before it is administered		✓
Special situations, such as a student becomes sick or is injured during the testing window		✓
Scripts for passages and items	✓	
What to do with materials when finished administering the ELPA		✓

### ELPA Questions and Answers:

***How do we know which students require ELL Services?*** - Michigan districts are required by federal law to administer the ELPA to all K-12 students who are eligible for English Language Learner (ELL) services. The Home Language Survey, which is provided to all incoming students, aids districts in determining which students are eligible for ELL services. A systematic Policy and Identification flowchart is available for download from the public ELPA Web site at [www.michigan.gov/elpa](http://www.michigan.gov/elpa).

***What is the ELPA Test Coordinator's Manual (TCM)?*** - Before administering the ELPA, all district and building coordinators should be familiar with the ELPA Test Coordinator's Manual (TCM). It is available for download from [www.michigan.gov/elpa](http://www.michigan.gov/elpa). The TCM covers information related to preparing for the assessment, training staff, and packaging/returning test materials to Questar Assessment, Inc.

***I noticed that some of my ELPA students do not have a Student Barcode Label for the ELPA. What do I need to do?*** - Since all testing materials must have student barcode labels, districts who have identified eligible ELLs and have ordered testing materials can use the OEAA Secure Site Pre-Identification (Pre-ID)

system for students participating in the ELPA. Districts that completed their Pre-ID check before January 16, 2009 received color-coded, printed barcodes directly from Questar Assessment, Inc. District coordinators can continue to print their own barcodes locally throughout the ELPA testing window using this system. For more information on printing student barcodes, please consult the ELPA TCM.

***I have Student Barcode Labels for students that no longer attend our school. What do I need to do?*** - Some Michigan districts have received student barcodes for students who were pre-identified but who have since left the district. In this case, coordinators will simply not apply their barcodes to test materials. A student who moves into another Michigan district during the ELPA testing window simply will be claimed and identified by the new district.

Please note that a new label can be carefully placed over an old one to conserve test materials. Coordinators should not send materials to another Michigan district, even if the student has completed only some of the ELPA. For questions related to special circumstances, please contact the OEAA at 877-560-8378 and select option 5 for ELPA-related inquiries.

***I have a student who recently enrolled that may require ELL services. Since the Spring ELPA is being administered, do I still give the ELPA Screener?*** - Federal law also requires districts to determine a student's level of English proficiency and use this data, along with other criteria determined by their district policy, to make an instructional placement decision for ELLs within ten instructional days. Many students who are eligible for ELL services arrive during the ELPA window. In these cases, districts should first administer the Spring ELPA. However, since Spring ELPA results will not be made available until early June, these districts will still need a way to assess the student's proficiency for immediate placement into services for the remainder of the year. In these cases, the OEAA recommends the use of the ELPA Initial Screening after the Spring ELPA is administered, since the ELPA Initial Screening uses an online scoring system that makes reports instantly available. However, since testing with both the Spring ELPA and the ELPA Initial Screening represents a significant testing burden on both the student and the school district, the OEAA recommends testing with the ELPA Initial Screening within a schedule that is as flexible as possible for the new student.

***I have a student who was moved out of ELL services during the school year. Should I test them with the Spring ELPA?*** - Yes, this student would be given the ELPA this year. Remember to update their student record in SRSD with an LEP service exit date. In the future, the student's monitoring plan will determine further testing for English language proficiency.

***I don't have any ELL students in my school, but I received materials for a student that recently enrolled. What do I need to do?*** - The OEAA determines who is eligible for ELPA testing based on performance levels from the past Spring ELPA, the ELPA Initial Screening, and whether the student has an LEP status in SRSD. Please check your district's information on this student as well as your district policies on which students are eligible for ELL services before sending back materials to Questar Assessment, Inc. If you need additional clarification on district policies for identification of ELLs, please contact your district coordinator or the Office of School Improvement at 517-373-8480. In addition, a Policy and Identification flowchart is available for download at [www.michigan.gov/elpa](http://www.michigan.gov/elpa).

***I have a student who was identified for ELL services whose parent does not want them tested. What am I required to do?*** - The ELPA is a federally mandated assessment for students who would otherwise be eligible for ELL services according to district policy, whether or not parents have refused those services. For additional guidance, please contact the OEAA at 877-560-8378.

***We have a student that scored Proficient/Advanced Proficient on the ELPA Initial Screening. Should they be enrolled into ELL services and thus take the Spring ELPA?*** - This decision is left with the district in accordance with its policy on entrance from and exit into ELL services. If you need additional clarification on district policies for identification of ELLs, please contact your district coordinator or the Office of School Improvement at 517-373-8480.

## **MI-Access Spring 2009 Assessment**

The grade 11 Spring 2009 MI-Access assessment window is February 16 – March 31, 2009. As a new procedure this spring, all materials have been packaged according to individual school, including an overage of materials, and have been shipped to the district MI-Access coordinator. It is the responsibility of the district MI-Access coordinator to distribute the materials to the school coordinators. Tracking information for each box shipped can be found on the OEAA Secure Site by clicking on the Material Orders/Tracking link ([www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure)).

It is very important to inventory your materials to determine if there any missing materials and if any additional materials are needed. If you have any questions, please call 877-560-8378 or e-mail [mi-access@michigan.gov](mailto:mi-access@michigan.gov).

## **MI-Access Spring 2009 Webcast**

The MI-Access Spring 2009 Webcast event was broadcasted on February 6. This event provided District and School MI-Access Coordinators with the information needed to help the Spring 2009 MI-Access assessment administration process go smoothly. The recording of the webcast and presentation is available at [www.misteamnet.com](http://www.misteamnet.com).

## **MEAP-Access Pilot Assessment (Modified Full Independence)**

The MEAP-Access pilot was administered in over 600 districts throughout Michigan. The pilot ended February 18, and a final report was presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) on March 17. The US Department of Education issued regulations regarding Alternate Assessments based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS). The regulations permit a state, as part of its assessment and accountability system under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Act, to adopt such standards and to develop an assessment aligned with modified academic achievement standards.

The MEAP-Access Pilot assessment was based on modified achievement standards and covered grades 3-8 grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for mathematics and English language arts. The results from this pilot will help guide the development of a fully operational test that addresses the assessment needs for students that the MI-Access Functional Independence and MEAP assessments are not appropriate.

This MEAP-Access 2009 Pilot has been a collaborative effort of the MDE and other stakeholders including, the offices of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Office of School Improvement, other state departments, district educators, and assessments experts. Each grade and content area assessment contained the pool of MEAP items that were written from the grade level content expectations for mathematics and English language arts. Two forms of the proposed MEAP-Access assessments were piloted at each grade level.

### **MEAP Writing: Grades 4 and 7 Only**

As approved by the State Board of Education on March 17, 2009, the MEAP assessments will be modified to include Writing in grades 4 and 7 only. Beginning in Fall 2009, MEAP will consist of assessments as displayed in the following table:

Grade	Mathematics	Reading	Writing	Science	Social Studies
3	✓	✓			
4	✓	✓	✓		
5	✓	✓		✓	
6	✓	✓			✓
7	✓	✓	✓		
8	✓	✓		✓	
9					✓

The MEAP Writing assessment is being revised to better and with greater stability measure students' writing achievement. The new Writing assessment will be field-tested in Fall 2009, and will become operational in Fall 2010.

