
ACCOUNTABILITY FOCUS

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A monthly newsletter devoted to what's happening in the Office of Psychometrics, Accountability, Research, & Evaluation at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

Spring 2011 Students Not Tested Reporting and Appeals Window

To meet federal reporting requirements, calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and for use in accreditation, it is important for schools to provide a reason why a student was not assessed in spring 2011. "Not Tested" issues for the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) are submitted by day (i.e., Day 1, 2, or 3). MI-Access "Not Tested" issues are submitted by content area. The "Students Not Tested" screen in the OEAA Secure Site accurately gathers this information, www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure. Though only math and reading are used for AYP, a "Not Tested" reason is needed for all content areas and used in federal reporting. The Students Not Tested window opens shortly after the close of Tested Roster.

The Students Not Tested screen will display a list of students identified through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) as being enrolled in the school during the Spring 2011 assessment window. A red "N" will be listed for a student who was not assessed under a MI-Access content area, or under Day 1, 2, or 3 for MME. A reason why the student did not test must be submitted. The information provided will be used for AYP and federal reporting purposes. However, **not all** reasons listed in the drop-down menu are valid reasons for a student exemption. When a "Not Tested" reason is selected that cannot be considered a valid rationale for student exemption, a message will be displayed on the screen informing the user.

Selections from the drop-down menu that may be a valid accountability exemption reason will be submitted electronically for review. The status of the possible exemptions can be checked in the "Not Tested Issues" screen. Once "Not Tested" reasons have been selected for all applicable students, and any possible accountability exemptions have been reviewed and

processed, schools can get an Assessment Participation Summary Report by clicking on the REPORT button on the Students Not Tested screen. This will give the school an accurate reporting of participation for accountability purposes.

The Secure Site manual contains more detailed instructions for using the Students Not Tested screens, as well as descriptions of the various exemption reasons. The manual can be found at www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure.

During the Tested Roster review period, schools were asked to verify all answer documents for the school were received and scanned by the contractor. Schools were to submit any issues relating to missing answer documents through the Tested Roster screen. Some schools submitted "missing test" issues and provided an explanation of why the student did not test. This was not the correct way to provide this information on students not assessed; therefore, if information was provided this way during tested roster, the data was not saved and the information will need to be provided on the "Students Not Tested" screen.

MSDS Updates: Student demographics are based on those provided during the February MSDS collection as well as updates submitted to MSDS through April 22, 2011 (with an "as of" date on or before March 17, 2011). **After April 22, demographics can no longer be updated for spring 2011 accountability purposes.**

UPCOMING:

ELPA Tested Roster: May 18-25, 2011

Educator Evaluations

Michigan is in the midst of a series of significant education reforms that turn our attention to our lowest-performing schools, support the development of educators at all levels of the system, and prepare students for career- and college-readiness. We are at a critical juncture as a state which requires us to be vigilant and focused in the efforts to increase Michigan's ability to produce students who can compete in the global economy.

One of these initiatives is annual educator evaluations. As an educational system, more frequent targeted feedback and support must be offered to Michigan teachers and leaders. Annual educator evaluations provide the opportunity for regular feedback for educators using high-quality, research-based evaluation systems. Evaluations may also provide the data to support targeted professional development to improve skills, and ultimately improve student achievement and school effectiveness.

MCL 380.1249 requires districts to adopt and implement an annual performance evaluation system for teachers and administrators that is developed with teacher and administrator involvement and includes state and local measures of student growth as a significant factor. The law also requires districts to collectively bargain the ways in which the results of these evaluations will be used to inform decisions related to the promotion, retention, development, tenure/certification, removal, and compensation of teachers and administrators.

Additionally, Michigan was awarded a \$1.3 billion grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) to implement and conduct several activities, including educator evaluations. Michigan must demonstrate progress toward the goals of this grant by September of 2011 to ensure the security of those funds already provided to districts.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/oeaa and click on the "Educator Evaluations" link on the left-hand side of the screen. You can view and download related documents and PowerPoint presentations.

"Points of Pride" for the School Report Card

To provide schools with the opportunity to submit additional information regarding their school for display in the School Report Card, the Office of Psychometrics, Accountability, Research, & Evaluation along with the Center for Educational Performance and Information have created a "Points of Pride" optional data submission. From May 2 - May 31 at 11:59 p.m., there will be an *optional* opportunity for principals to submit "Points of Pride" about their schools that are separate from assessment and accountability data. If submitted, this information will be displayed on the School Report Card website which is currently in development for release in August 2011.

Principals will have an opportunity to choose whether to participate by completing the "Points of Pride Optional Worksheet," which they will then submit to their school/district EEM authorized user to enter into the EEM. Below are an explanation and instructions for participation:

The Points of Pride (PoP) feature in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) provides an opportunity for a school to include information on its School Report Card that is not related to assessment, AYP, or accreditation requirements, but rather other areas where a school may be excelling, demonstrating excellence, or providing opportunities for students. This is information not collected elsewhere and is **purely optional** for a school to submit.

On the worksheet, there are the **optional**, pre-defined Points of Pride that you may wish to indicate for display on your School Report Card. You may include as many or as few as you would like. Use this worksheet to mark any desired Point of Pride by placing a "✓" in the second column next to it. Then, indicate the range or answer choice that best fits your school in the third column.

There is also an **option** for your school to include bullet points of its own that are not on the pre-generated list. Write these bullet points in the space provided EXACTLY as you would like them to be entered into the system. They will appear as entered and will be edited only to meet MDE style conventions.

After completion of this worksheet, send it to your local EEM authorized user. This individual will use the information you provide on this worksheet to enter your school's PoP Values into the EEM. **Please see the "Points of Pride (PoP) Optional Worksheet for Principals" on the next page.**

Points of Pride (PoP) Optional Worksheet for Principals

Below are the **OPTIONAL**, pre-defined Points of Pride that schools may choose to include for display on the MI School Data website. Choose to include as many or as few as desired.

Point of Pride	Include ?	Definition	Circle the answer(s) that best fits your school
College preparatory courses		Indicate yes if the school offers college preparatory courses and/or curriculum that may include international baccalaureate, advanced placement, pre-AP, dual enrollment, etc.	YES
Annual school-wide reading program		Indicate yes if there is a defined reading program available for participation by all students.	YES
Student mentorship program		Indicate yes if there is a student mentorship program to assist students. A program that pairs a student with an adult or older or more experienced student for help with personal development, study habits, etc.	YES
Anti-bullying policy adopted		Indicate yes if there is an official policy in place that defines bullying, its consequences, how to report it, etc.	YES
Number of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certified teachers		Indicate the number of teachers with NBPTS certification.	1-5 6-10 11-15 16 or more
Number of community outreach programs/events		Indicate the number of programs designed to get students involved in the community to better themselves and the community itself.	1-5 6-10 11-15 16 or more
Percentage of parent participation in parent-teacher conferences and/or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)		Indicate the average percentage of parents who attended parent-teacher conferences and PTO meetings and/or functions.	1-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61% or greater
Percentage of students on Honor Roll		Indicate the average percentage of students on the Honor Roll, which is typically considered to be students with 3.0 average or better on a 4.0 scale.	1-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61% or greater
School or district-developed common assessments implemented		Indicate the subject areas where common assessments have been developed and implemented during the school year.	Reading Writing Mathematics Social Studies/History Science Physical Education Technology Fine Arts Other
World languages offered		Indicate the world languages offered as courses of study and/or before- or after-school programs.	Spanish Chinese Arabic Latin Italian French Hebrew Japanese German Ancient Greek American Sign Language Other

Add your own Points of Pride if there is additional information you would like displayed on the School Report Card website that was not captured in the pre-defined list. Write in the information EXACTLY as you would like it entered into the EEM by your designated school staff member. Be sure to check for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation because these Points of Pride will be displayed EXACTLY as they are entered. Only MDE style conventions may be applied. (Maximum 400 characters—approximately five full-sentence bullet points)

When completed, please turn this page into your school or district's EEM authorized user. Points of Pride will be entered under the "Enter PoP Values" button.

MEAP-Access

Available for Fall 2011

This fall, MEAP-Access, an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards, is being reintroduced. MEAP-Access was first administered as a pilot test during the winter of 2009 and was operational in the fall of that year. The results indicated that a one-year study and development process was required to develop a more reliable test and find ways to increase student participation. This fall's MEAP-Access will be a much improved version of the test thanks to Michigan educators' and students' input over the past year.

MEAP-Access is a test developed for students with disabilities who have a valid, current Individualized Education Program (IEP), are in grades 3 through 8, and who struggle to meet grade-level proficiency in the same timeframe as their peers in the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. The design of the test reduces some complexities while still assessing the grade-level standards.

What is so significant about this? MEAP-Access is part of the statewide assessment continuum and participation will be counted toward the 95% rate required for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

How will MEAP-Access benefit schools and districts? This is an opportunity to increase the number of proficient scores and include them in the calculations (up to 2% of district enrollment in the tested grades) for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Can the 2% proficiency cap be exceeded? Yes. MEAP-Access provides an opportunity to include additional proficient scores from alternate assessments in the AYP calculations. MI-Access can use up to 1% and MEAP-Access is 2%. The 2% proficiency cap may be exceeded if the 1% cap is underutilized. This under-utilization percent will dictate how much the 2% may be exceeded by.

Is the total proficiency cap on alternate assessments 3%? Yes, with one careful distinction. While the 2% cap may be exceeded, as mentioned

above, the 1% may not, unless an exemption has been granted

Where can I get more information about MEAP-Access? There is a public webpage for MEAP-Access that contains all the assessment information for parents, IEP teams, and administrators. It also includes the complete federal guideline documents to support the accountability requirements of alternate assessments. This important resource can be found at: www.michigan.gov/meap-access.

If you have any additional questions please contact Dan Evans at 517-335-1165 or evansd2@michigan.gov.

Acronyms of the Month

EEM – Educational Entity Master is the directory used for identifying and linking educational entities with many other data collection applications in the State of Michigan

FAY – Full Academic Year is a term used to refer to students' status in a district over the course of a school year.

MSDS – Michigan School Data System is the application districts will use for state and federal student data reporting.

PEPE – The Primary Education Providing Entity (PEPE) is the entity considered to be primarily responsible for educating a student. The PEPE is assigned using a series of decision rules that examine where the student's FTE is reported and where the student is tested. Student scores will be attributed to the PEPE for all accountability functions and for other data reporting functions, such as headcount.

AYP 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Applications

Federal rules permit up to 1% of enrolled students in each grade assessed, who participated in an alternate assessment, and surpassed or attained the performance standard, to be counted as "proficient" for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). All current MI-Access assessments (Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence) are based on alternate achievement standards and; therefore, fall under the 1% cap regulation. The federal rules require that school districts apply for state approval of an exception in cases where the district wishes to exceed the 1% cap at the district level.

This communication outlines changes to the application process for AYP 1% cap exceptions. These changes are needed to account for recent policy changes, such as the introduction of Shared Educational Entities (SEEs), and to comply with federal audit requirements. A summary of the changes to the application process and a link to the new application are provided below.

Summary of Changes

- All school districts and public school academies (PSAs) **MUST** submit a new application, regardless of whether a previously-approved application existed.
- The application form has been streamlined to reduce the amount of information required from applicants.
- **Applications must be submitted by Thursday, May 5, 2011.**
- Approved applications will be considered "active" for three consecutive report card cycles. Districts/PSAs will only need to reapply for a 1% cap exception after three consecutive report card cycles, OR if there have been significant changes to the approved program within the three-cycle period.

Shared Educational Entities (SEEs)

- If a district houses a SEE, along with other non-SEE programs serving students with disabilities, the district may choose to apply for an exception to the 1% cap, in addition to the flexibility offered by establishing as a SEE. Exceptions in these cases will be granted only in specific circumstances where sufficient evidence is provided to warrant an additional exception.
- Districts that send students to a SEE may wish to apply for an exception to the 1% cap, as they will be held accountable for the scores of these students at a district level. SEE student scores will be returned to the *resident district*.

AYP Appeals Process

- Approved 1% exceptions are NOT automatically applied.
- Districts (and schools within the district) must still file an appeal during the appropriate preliminary report card window in order to exceed the 1% cap.

The 2011 District Application for an exception to the 1% Cap can be found here:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2011_1_Cap_Application_FINAL_350183_7.pdf.

Please contact the Office of Psychometrics, Accountability, Research, and Evaluation (OPARE) at MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov, or call 877-560-8378, option 6 with any questions regarding 1% cap exceptions.

Accountability Timeline

The following timeline outlines date-related items that may affect your district's or school's accountability functions in 2010-11.

Students Not Tested – from May 2 - 16, 2011

During the Students Not Tested window, schools have the opportunity to indicate the reason a student failed to test. There are some reasons for not testing students which are valid reasons for a student to be exempt from participation expectations in accountability. In those cases, students will not be counted against a school in accountability calculations. Please make sure you enter your school's information during this window.

ELPA Tested Roster – from May 18 – 25, 2011

The Tested Roster for the spring 2011 English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) will be available between May 18 – 25, 2011.

Report Card Appeals

The Report Card appeals window will be open for elementary and middle schools in late May for two weeks. For high schools, the Report Card appeals window will be open for two weeks starting in late June.



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