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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 22, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Sample Item Presentation

Since the fall of 2010, Michigan has played a leadership role with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a group of 25 states working together to develop assessments based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These assessments are being designed to provide valid indications of student progress towards career and college readiness. Participation in the development and implementation of this next-generation assessment system is an essential part of Michigan's ability to implement statewide educational reform efforts.

On October 9, 2012, SBAC released an online tool housing sixty sample English language arts (ELA) and mathematics items. These items are representative of the kinds of stimuli and tasks that students will be expected to navigate in this new assessment system. This includes a number of item types that are new for Michigan, as well as the transition to online assessments. The sample items will help to highlight the increased depth and rigor in the CCSS that are essential to career and college preparedness.

Staff will provide the Board with a brief update on the progress of the consortium and an introduction to the new types of items that SBAC is developing. In addition, staff will present examples of items from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) that measure a specific CCSS topic along with corresponding sample SBAC items to display differences between items on the same mathematics or ELA concept.

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