



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

DATE: October 1, 2009

SUBJECT: **Presentation on Proposed Performance Standards for MEAP-
Access Grades 3-8 Reading and Mathematics Assessments**

MEAP-Access is Michigan's newest assessment program for students with disabilities and is designed to fit between the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the MI-Access Functional Independence assessments within the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) continuum. The MEAP-Access Reading and Mathematics assessments will be administered operationally for the first time in fall 2009.

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the proposed procedures for setting the first MEAP-Access performance standards. The methods proposed are consistent with the procedures used for previous MI-Access work of this type, as well as for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Examination (MME). The performance standards proposed for adoption by the State Board of Education will define three levels of performance: Exceeded Expectations, Met Expectations, and Progressing Toward Expectations. These performance level labels will be unique to the MEAP-Access assessments to differentiate them from the MI-Access and MEAP/MME performance level labels so that the results of the multiple assessments are not confused as having the same meaning.

The results of the standard-setting activities, including recommended performance standards, will be presented to the State Board of Education at its meeting on January 12, 2010, since standard setting is scheduled to occur in mid December 2009.

The Michigan Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of nationally recognized measurement and statistics experts, has reviewed the standard-setting plan and is scheduled to review the results of the initial scaling in November, 2009.

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Standard setting cannot take place until MEAP-Access tests are returned, scanned, scored, and scaled. With existing cut scores, the results would then be ready for reporting. However, with a new assessment, standard setting occurs before reporting. The time required for standard setting activities, review by appropriate committees, and approval by the State Board of Education appears as a delay in regular reporting schedules. In order to reduce that delay, as much as possible, it is necessary to bring the State Board of Education the final results of the standard setting activity in the same month that they need to be approved.

Standard-setting will be carried out by four panels of Michigan educators and other stakeholders working under the direction of the MEAP-Access contractor and Department staff. Each panel will work on one of the following content areas/grade levels: Reading, Grades 3-5; Reading, Grades 6-8; Mathematics, Grades 3-5; or Mathematics, Grades 6-8.

Each panel (composed of 15-18 panelists) will spend three days reviewing the assessment instrument(s) assigned to them, individually judging the level of performance that students would need to achieve for each of the three performance levels, discussing these within their panel, and repeating this process another two times with additional performance information provided during each round.

Panelists will make their final judgments individually, and the resulting recommendations will represent a compilation of these individual judgments. The result of the standard-setting process will be recommended mathematics and reading performance standards for each grade level. At the end of the standard-setting process, panelists will be asked to indicate their level of confidence in the standards they have recommended and the processes used to reach them.

A second memo, providing a summary of the panelists' responses, the results of the standard-setting process, and my formal recommendation for cut scores for your review and approval will be provided to you for the January 12, 2010 State Board of Education meeting.