



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Mike Flanagan
DATE: August 25, 2008
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RENAMING ONE OF THE BOARD-APPROVED PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESIGNATIONS FOR GRADES 3-8 MEAP AND MI-ACCESS FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE ASSESSMENTS

The State Board of Education approved the following student-level performance level change designations in June of 2007.

Significant Improvement	(SI)
Improvement	(I)
No Change	(N)
Decline	(D)
Significant Decline	(SD)

The Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability (OEAA) has received feedback from the initial use of these labels and found that many teachers and parents have misunderstood the label "No Change" (In Performance Level) to mean that students did not learn during the previous school year rather than that students achieved one year of learning for one year of education (e.g. students who were far ahead remained the same degree ahead).

Based on discussions the OEAA Advisory Committee (comprised of representatives of over 30 Michigan educational organizations), it is recommended that the "No Change" category be renamed "Maintaining (M)" to more accurately represent that students have learned during the previous school year sufficient to maintain their level of performance relative to increasing grade level expectations.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve changing the name of the "No Change" performance level change designation to "Maintaining (M)" beginning with the 2008-2009 school year to improve communication about the progress students are making on the MEAP and MI-Access Functional Independence assessments.

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