



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, School Principals, School Staff involved in State Assessments, ISD and Local Special Education Directors, Public School Academy Directors and Public School Academy Special Education Contacts

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: March 31, 2009

SUBJECT: MEAP-Access Eligibility Criteria and Supporting Documents

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the State Board of Education approved a format for the MEAP-Access assessment that was piloted in February. The MEAP-Access assessment will become operational in the fall of 2009.

The MEAP-Access is intended to bridge the gap between the MI-Access assessments and the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) for students with disabilities. With the addition of the new MEAP-Access, the following continuum of assessment options now exists for students in grades 3-8:

- MEAP (without accommodations)
- MEAP (with accommodations)
- MEAP-Access**
- MI-Access Functional Independence
- MI-Access Supported Independence
- MI-Access Participation

To accompany the approval of the MEAP-Access assessments, eligibility criteria and guidelines for participation have been developed to assist Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams in the identification of students who may appropriately participate in MEAP-Access.

The eligibility criteria are provided as Attachment A to this memorandum, and are also available on the MEAP-Access web page at <http://www.michigan.gov/meap-access>.

One major criterion for eligibility to participate in MEAP-Access is the use of a standards-based IEP. A copy of an article regarding standards-based IEPs is included as Attachment B for your information. This article describes standardized-

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Page 2  
March 31, 2009

based IEPs and provides sample IEP pages to assist IEP Teams in meeting the requirements for a standards-based IEP.

Schools can use existing IEP forms to document the student's participation in MEAP-Access. This documentation may be recorded anywhere in the IEP.

Further questions may be directed to Dr. Joanne Winkelman, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services at 517-373-1696 or email to [winkelmanj@michigan.gov](mailto:winkelmanj@michigan.gov) or Mr. Dan Evans, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at 517-335-1165 or email to [evansd2@michigan.gov](mailto:evansd2@michigan.gov).

Enclosures