



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 2, 2007

TO: LEA and ISD Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: 2008 MME TESTING DATES

Some districts have contacted the department seeking flexibility in the dates for Michigan Merit Exam testing in 2008. Initial testing is to occur March 11-14, with make-up testing March 25-28. Easter falls on March 23 in 2008. Schools that are scheduling a spring break for the week after Easter are wondering whether the make-up testing dates can be changed, or at least a different make-up date arranged for the schools on spring break that week.

The purpose of this memo is to explain that there will be no changes in the dates for 2008 MME testing, for the following reasons:

- Michigan law states that the MME shall be administered each year after March 1 and before June 1 (Revised School Code: 380.1279g).
- ACT regulations require that no local testing occur within two weeks of a national testing date. National testing in 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, April 12. The March 25-28 dates for Michigan make-up testing could therefore not be postponed a week (to April 1-4) because this would put make-up testing within one week of the national test date.
- The only possibility would be to move up the entire 2008 testing calendar so that initial testing would occur March 4-7 and make-up testing March 18-21. March 18-21, however, is the week before Easter and the department has already learned that some school districts have scheduled their spring break then.

It is therefore apparent that there is no one solution that will not impact some school districts. The 2008 testing dates were announced a year ago and were reiterated in this past fall's assessment conferences, so that with two years' advance notice before 2008 testing, districts would have an opportunity to work through the possible adjustment of schedules. The schedules for 2009 and 2010 are also available on the MME website: www.michigan.gov/mme.

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