



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 3, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*  
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Updates to the High School Content Expectations

As the school year begins, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is implementing a number of updates to the High School Content Expectations (HSCE) to assist schools in preparing students for success on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). MDE has listened to the field and in response to concerns, the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements have been revised to reflect ACT's College Readiness Standards, Achieve's American Diploma Project Benchmarks, and the proposed common core college and career readiness standards Michigan plans to adopt. We are also identifying HSCE that may be tested on the MME.

These measures will provide clear alignment of the MME and the HSCE. The alignment will begin with anticipated common state standards and assessments for the federal Race to the Top initiative. Within the next two weeks, MDE will release documents that reflect what students should be taught by the time the MME is administered in the spring of each student's junior year.

The document, entitled "Expectations for Success with the Michigan Merit Exam," will delineate the content eligible for inclusion on the MME beginning with spring 2010 and will be posted on the MDE website by September 15.

In addition to sending all information via email, these are large documents that in most cases will be rejected by most local education agency servers, it will also be posted on the MDE website.

cc: William Mayes, MASA  
David Martell, MSBO  
Dan Quisenberry, MAPSA  
Billie Wimmer, MCCSA

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324