

Assessment & Accountability Announcements - Week of February 17, 2014

There are **THREE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: **1)** Spring 14 MI-Access Functional Independence Social Studies Pilot Test – Registration Closing; **2)** Kindergarten Entry; and **3)** Accountability Scorecards 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Applications Now Available.

1) Spring 14 MI-Access Functional Independence Social Studies Pilot Test – Registration Closing!!

There is still time to register for the Spring 14 MI-Access Functional Independence Social Studies Online Pilot Test

- Open to any student that is assessed using MI-Access Functional Independence in grades 5, 8 or 11
- Based on the EGLCEs and EHSCEs released in 2013
- Will be completely online
- Testing Window: April, 2014 (open entire month)
- Online tools training and administrative functions to open beginning of March, 2014
- Registration window closes February 21, 2014

To sign Up: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MI-Access_FI_SS_District_Registration

If you need additional time to register or have questions, please email: JaquithJ@michigan.gov

2) Kindergarten Entry Assessment Fall 2014 Field Test

Michigan Department of Education's Division of Accountability Services (DAS) is looking for teachers to participate in the Fall 2014 Field Test of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). Michigan is using the Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment for its KEA. For more information about Teaching Strategies GOLD online, visit their website at <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/page/GOLD-assessment-online.cfm>.

Participating teachers will receive two days of web-based, online professional development prior to the assessment window. Teachers can earn 12 SCECHs for participating in the professional development. The test window is September 2 to October 31, 2014. Teachers must be registered and trained prior to the test window.

Please visit the KEA webpage, www.michigan.gov/kea, for more information about the KEA, to learn more about its many benefits, and to sign up for the fall field test.

3) Accountability Scorecards 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Applications

We are now accepting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Applications for the 2014 Michigan School Accountability Scorecards. Districts have until **5:00 PM on Friday, May 2, 2014** to submit new applications. **Applications are now completely electronic and are available through the Secure Site.** Please see the below links to the 2014 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Application instructions, and the list of previously approved 2012 and 2013 1% applications. **Those districts that already have an approved 2012 or 2013 1% application need not reapply, as approved applications are active for three accountability cycles.**

Federal regulations permit up to 1% of enrolled students in each grade assessed, who participated in an alternate assessment, and surpassed or attained the performance standard, to be counted as "proficient" for accountability purposes. All current MI-Access assessments (Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional

Independence) are based on alternate achievement standards and; therefore, fall under the 1% cap regulation. The 1% cap is computed by taking no more than one percent of the district headcount enrollment (fall 2013 for grades 3-9 and spring 2014 for grade 11) at the grade levels in which students are assessed by content area in the state assessment system. The number of proficient student scores (in each local school district) is not rounded upward. The federal rules require that school districts apply for state approval of an exception in cases where the district wishes to exceed the 1% cap at the district level.

All school districts and public school academies (PSAs) that believe they qualify for an exception to the 1% cap MUST submit an application for the 2014 accountability determinations if they do not already have an approved 2012 or 2013 1% application.

Approved 1% applications will be considered active for three consecutive scorecard cycles. Districts/PSAs will need to reapply for the exception after the three consecutive scorecard cycles OR if there are significant changes to the approved program within the three-cycle period.

Shared Educational Entities (SEEs) for Accountability

SEEs that are approved as participating in the accountability “sending scores back” policy for the current school year will not normally need to apply for an exception to the 1% cap. In cases where a district houses a SEE along with other non-SEE programs, the district may apply for an exception to the 1% cap, however the exception will only be applied to the non-SEE programs. Districts that send students to a SEE (member districts) may wish to apply for an exception to the 1% cap as they will be held accountable for the scores of these students at a district level and could exceed the 1% cap at that level. Please note: SEE student scores are returned to the resident district, except for schools of choice students whom are returned to their operating districts.

Michigan School Accountability Scorecards Appeals Process

Districts (and the schools within the district) with approved applications must still file an accountability appeal during the appropriate preliminary scorecard window in order to go above the 1% cap. Please note that 1% cap appeals are only accepted if it changes the overall scorecard color of a school or district.

The 2014 District Application for an Exception to the 1% Cap can be found on the Secure Site:

<https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/Login.aspx>

Only Secure Site users with access to view the district scorecard will be able to submit a district application for an exception to the 1% Cap. Once you have logged in to the Secure Site, go to the Scorecard menu and select Scorecard. Navigate to your district’s 2012-13 scorecard. At the bottom of the district scorecard, you will see a number of buttons. Click the Apply for 1% Cap Waiver button to start the application process:

For more detailed instructions, see pages 237-242 of the Secure Site User Manual:

<https://baa.state.mi.us/BAASecure/pdfs/SecureSiteUserManual.pdf>

The 2012 and 2013 Approved 1% Applications list can be found at the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Current_Approved_1_Percent_Applications_388554_7.pdf

You can find the above resources along with an informational PowerPoint posted at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/baa-accountability>.

Please note that 1% cap waivers that are approved can only be applied to 2013-14 scorecards and beyond.