



## Frequently Asked Questions

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The following is a simplified summary of MEAP-Access, intended primarily for parents. Educators may desire a more thorough analysis of issues regarding the use of MEAP-Access. For the answers to additional questions, please call 877-560-8378 or email [oeaa@mi.gov](mailto:oeaa@mi.gov).

1. ***What is MEAP-Access?*** - MEAP-Access is a new statewide alternate assessment designed to improve access to grade-level content for some students with disabilities. It is designed to provide a valid, reliable and fair measure of the achievement of students who struggle with the academic content areas of Reading/Writing and Mathematics, and who are not currently able to meet grade-level achievement standards for the grade in which they are enrolled.
2. ***When will MEAP-Access count for the first time?*** - MEAP-Access will count for the first time in Fall 2009, with results counting for Adequate Yearly Progress in the 2009-2010 school year.
3. ***Why would schools want to administer MEAP-Access?*** - MEAP-Access is desirable for eligible students for the following reasons:
  - MEAP-Access is more appropriate for eligible students than MEAP or MI-Access.
  - MEAP-Access is shorter than MEAP, with fewer questions to answer.
  - MEAP-Access multiple choice questions have fewer options than on MEAP.
  - MEAP-Access will have new cut scores appropriate for its student population.
  - MEAP-Access scores will be used in calculating AYP (up to 2% of a district's students can be considered proficient based on MEAP-Access).
4. ***How does MEAP-Access differ from MEAP, MME and MI-Access?*** - The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) are the general assessments in Michigan for students enrolled in grades 3-9 and grade 11 respectively. MI-Access is an alternate assessment for students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 who have, or function as if they have, mild to severe cognitive disabilities that limit their ability to participate in the general assessments. MEAP-Access, Michigan's new alternate assessment for students grades 3-8, measures the same grade-level content expectations as does MEAP, but it has fewer questions for students to answer, and fewer options for students to choose from on multiple choice questions. In addition, proficiency cut scores will be set independently on MEAP-Access to be appropriate for the student population eligible to take MEAP-Access.
5. ***How will MEAP-Access results count toward AYP?*** - The results will be used, with MEAP and MI-Access as appropriate, for determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the school and district. *Students with a standards-based IEP who also meet all other eligibility criteria may participate in this assessment.* All students that take MEAP-Access are counted toward the 95% participation requirement for AYP. Up to 2% of students enrolled in tested grades across the district who score at the Proficient level on MEAP-Access may be counted as Proficient for AYP.
6. ***How long will MEAP-Access be?*** - The MEAP-Access Mathematics assessment will have between 31-34 questions depending on grade level. The MEAP-Access Reading/Writing assessment will have 29 questions at all grades.
7. ***Which students are eligible to take MEAP-Access?*** - In the past, students with disabilities may have participated in MEAP with accommodations, which may have proved inappropriately difficult, or they may have taken the MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) assessment which did not provide an appropriate level of challenge.

These students should be considered for MEAP-Access, *if they meet all other criteria for eligibility*. There are several criteria students scheduled to take MEAP-Access must meet. These include, but are not limited to, having a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is based on the state expectations for the grade in which they are enrolled. The student must also have access to and instruction in grade-level content for the grade in which he or she is enrolled. The complete "MEAP-Access Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Participation" document is available at [www.michigan.gov/meap-access](http://www.michigan.gov/meap-access).

8. ***Are students allowed to participate in more than one level of the assessment (MEAP, MEAP-Access and MI-Access)?*** – Yes. Students may be assessed with either MEAP, MEAP-Access, or MI-Access (Functional Independence only) in each content area. This decision should be made independently for each content area (math and English language arts) by the student's IEP team. Students should only take one of the assessments (MEAP, MEAP-Access, or MI-Access) in each content area.
9. ***When will MEAP-Access be administered?*** - MEAP-Access will be administered each October, during the same window as the MEAP. A testing schedule is available from the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) at [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa).
10. ***Who will coordinate MEAP-Access testing in my school district?*** - Each public school district and nonpublic school district will designate one individual in the district who is responsible for administering MEAP-Access to students in that district. If no person is so designated by the school, the OEAA will assume the district's MI-Access Coordinator will also serve as the district's MEAP-Access Coordinator. The MEAP-Access District Coordinator will be responsible for assuring that students scheduled to take MEAP-Access are indeed eligible under the established criteria, for assuring the assessments are administered in accordance with procedures established by the OEAA, and for assuring the return of all testing materials for scoring according to timelines.
11. ***How will students be identified for MEAP-Access testing?*** - The selection process for MEAP-Access participation is the responsibility of each student's IEP Team. Since this is a new assessment, to assist districts with this process, a list of students who participated in the Winter 2009 MEAP-Access Pilot assessment will be provided by the OEAA as a starting point for making these decisions, **but not all students on the list may be eligible. Each student's eligibility should be verified.** In addition to the responsibilities of the IEP Team, the MEAP-Access District Coordinator is responsible for assuring that any student participating in MEAP-Access meets *all* eligibility criteria as listed in the "MEAP-Access Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Participation" document. This document is available at [www.michigan.gov/meap-access](http://www.michigan.gov/meap-access).
12. ***Are students required to take MEAP-Access?*** - No, it is an alternate assessment option for Michigan students. Every public school in Michigan is required to assess every student in their school using a statewide assessment authorized by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Whether the student takes the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Examination (MME), MI-Access, or MEAP-Access depends upon the school and the student's IEP Team.
13. ***Are there public school students in Michigan who need not be assessed using any statewide assessment?*** - No. Every public school must assess every student, regardless of their level of ability or disability, using the appropriate statewide assessment authorized by the MDE.
14. ***Why are nonpublic schools not required to assess their students?*** - Michigan law does not require nonpublic schools to participate in statewide assessments administered by the MDE. Participation is voluntary for nonpublic schools.