



OEAA Update

Produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), for all who administer statewide assessments in Michigan.
www.michigan.gov/oeaa Toll-free 877-560-8378

"10-Day Rule" Began September 29

Pursuant to *Professional Assessment and Accountability Practices for Educators* (released by the OEAA in August 2007), it is a prohibited practice for school personnel to use assessments of the same content that very closely or identically match topics and wording that are used in the MEAP assessments **10 school days** prior to the beginning of the state assessment window. This means schools may not "prep for the MEAP" after September 29 because the Fall 2008 MEAP window begins 10 school days later on October 14. During this 10-day moratorium, school personnel may not use assessments, "practice tests," "released items" (materials that previously appeared on MEAP assessments but are now available to the public on the OEAA website), nor any licensed product, such as (but not limited to) *Coach* (by Triumph Learning, formerly Educational Design, Inc.), *MEAP Test Secrets Study Guide* (by Morrison Media, LLC), *StudyIsland.com*, or any other similar product/service. The purpose of this restriction is to avoid placing undue stress on students by having them "cram" for the MEAP assessments.

If you have questions about this restriction, call the OEAA toll-free at 877-560-8378. It is always better to call us first!

Fall 2008 MEAP Assessments

Fall 2008 MEAP testing presents some "firsts" for Michigan schools. First and foremost is the new MEAP schedule. This is the first time that MEAP subject area tests will be administered (in their entirety) in one day, on specific dates. Schools first received notice of this schedule in January 2008 and many questions still remain as evidenced from the emails following the Fall 2008 MEAP Coordinator Briefing webcast held at Wayne County RESA on September 10.

The questions submitted during the webcast have been posted to our web page at www.michigan.gov/meap. Please take a moment to review the document and if you have other questions, contact the OEAA MEAP Office at meap@michigan.gov.

Makeup test booklets (Form 11) are being shipped to schools along with the initial test booklets (Forms 1-10). As noted during the webcast, brown boxes from Measurement Incorporated will contain the ancillary materials (packing lists, header sheets, administrator manuals, coordinator handbooks, preprinted barcode labels, answer documents and initial test booklets (Forms 1-10). The white boxes from Measurement Incorporated will contain the makeup test booklets (Form 11).

The second big change is the return shipment schedule for MEAP materials. The OEAA has worked with our scoring contractor, Measurement Inc., to facilitate multiple returns of initial test materials. Schools and districts are not allowed to administer an initial test (Forms 1-10) after the initial test date. Because the initial test forms cannot be used after the initial

test date, school are asked to return the completed student answer documents AND the nonscorable initial test booklets (Forms 1-10) multiple times during the test window. The one exception to the early return schedule is for those students using accommodations to complete their testing. Accommodated administrations may occur any day between the initial test date and the end of the test window, October 30, if needed. The table that follows details the early return schedule.

| Fall 2008 MEAP Assessment Administration Return Dates | |
|--|--|
| Return Date | Subject Area Tests to be Returned |
| October 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • ELA Session 1 |
| October 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Session 2 • Science • Social Studies • Mathematics makeup (Form 11) • ELA Session 1 makeup (Form 11) |
| November 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Session 2 makeup (Form 11) • Science makeup (Form 11) • Social Studies makeup (Form 11) • any makeup test (Form 11) administered on October 29 or 30. |

The last date schools may ship MEAP materials to the scoring contractor without penalty is November 5, 2008. Materials shipped from schools from November 6-13 will incur a \$250 late fee; any schools that ship MEAP materials from November 13-19 will incur the \$250 late fee PLUS a \$25 processing fee for EACH answer document returned for scoring. Materials received after November 19 will not be scored, results will not be reported or used for AYP or *EducationYES!* school grades.

Materials Prohibited from Display During Testing

During the administration of any MEAP assessment, remember that *no materials such as posters, drawings, or signs which provide students with specific content are to be displayed in the room where students are testing.* If you have reason to suspect that a poster or other such display material might help a student answer an assessment item, you might do well to remove or cover the poster during testing.

During the MEAP Science assessment, for example, schools should remove or adequately cover any poster that displays the life cycles of plants, insects, amphibians, etc.. Lists of steps to follow for making a scientific investigation, labels that name or describe scientific equipment, the process of photosynthesis are other examples of materials that should be removed or covered. Display of general Science references, such as the Periodic Table, is allowed. Taking a test in a Science classroom or lab is allowed, as long as the science equipment in the lab, if visible, is not labeled or described. Pictures of plants, animals, scientists, etc., without classification or description, are allowed (a picture of Albert Einstein with only his name, for example).

When in doubt, take the display/poster out of the room during testing.

OEAA Staff to Visit Schools

OEAA staff and staff from OEAA testing contractor Measurement Incorporated will visit schools across the state during MEAP administration. Their role will be simply to observe. Each will carry proper identification and an official introductory letter, so don't hesitate to ask them for it! If in doubt, you can always call the OEAA toll-free at 877-560-8378.

Changes to MME

The revised *State School Aid Act* (Public Act 268 of 2008) significantly affects the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The new law limits the number of times a student may take the MME to one.

Legislation (House Bills 6412 and 6413) has been introduced that would allow an eligible student in grade 12 to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship by taking an optional assessment (to be determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction) after taking the complete MME. The legislation specifies that the student must first take the complete MME and obtain valid MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The legislation also specifies that the student would assume the cost of taking the optional assessment. The state would assume the cost of taking one time the optional assessment for students eligible for free or reduced lunch who apply for but are denied a fee waiver from ACT.

While there is no guarantee, the OEAA believes the legislation (House Bills 6412 and 6413) will be signed into law soon. *Until then, this option for a grade 12 student is simply a proposal.* If and when it becomes law, the OEAA will promptly notify schools. The Michigan Department of Treasury is solely responsible for administering the Michigan Promise scholarship.

For the latest news regarding this new law and the proposed alternative, visit the MME website at www.michigan.gov/mme. We will update information as it becomes available.

New ELPA Screeners

Distribution of the updated 2008-2009 ELPA Initial Screening materials began the week of September 8. The updated screener has a new, distinct white cover. As you assess students with these materials, please be sure to select the "Fall 2008 Leaf Cycle ELPA Initial Screening" menu option when entering in student raw scores to obtain reports on the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure).

There are two corrections to the 2008-09 ELPA Initial Screening materials. A separate, downloadable message is available under "Announcements" on the OEAA Secure Site (www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). Please print and distribute the message to ELPA coordinators for use while testing.

If you have not yet placed an order for the updated ELPA Initial Screening, or if you need additional materials, you may do so by clicking the "2008-2009 ELPA Initial Screening Order Form" link located under the "What's New" section at www.michigan.gov/elpa. This will take you to an electronic form for ordering.

Districts using the 2007-08 ELPA Initial Screening (with a color cover) were able to enter raw scores and obtain score reports for students on the "Fall 2007 Leaf Cycle ELPA Initial Screening" menu option through September 22. As of Friday, September 19, districts were no longer able to order 2007-08 testing materials. Instead, ELPA coordinators should request materials using the "2008-2009 ELPA Initial Screening Order Form" found in the "What's New" section at www.michigan.gov/elpa.

As a reminder, students who have recently arrived in your school (enrolled in US schools for 12 months or less) are eligible for a one-time exemption from the ELA portion of this fall's MEAP assessment. Make sure that the enrollment date information (boxes 8 and 10 on the ELPA demographic form) is completed accurately for recently arrived students who take the ELPA Initial Screening. This will aid in the correct reporting of students who are eligible for this exemption.

If you need help or have questions, please contact the ELPA staff at 877-560-8378 or email us at mde-elpa@michigan.gov.

Help Review Future MEAP Items

To ensure the highest quality for MEAP assessments, all assessment items developed for grades 3 through 9 MEAP will be offered for review by teachers in the field. As a part of the quality assurance process, the OEAA and Pearson Assessment will conduct statewide field reviews in November 2008. Michigan educators will review new test items under strict conditions of security and confidentiality. The tentative locations and dates are:

Escanaba (Nov. 10), Harrison (Nov. 11), Grand Rapids (Nov. 12), Lansing (Nov. 13), Livonia (Nov. 14), Alpena (Nov. 17), Traverse City (Nov. 19), Muskegon (Nov. 20), Kalamazoo (Nov. 18), Monroe (Nov. 19), Bay City (Nov. 21)

This year, we will be using a new technology to conduct the reviews. All test items will be displayed on a computer monitor. Participants will enter their comments directly into the system. Because this is a browser-intensive application, those wishing to attend **MUST** have extensive experience using Internet browsers such as Internet Explorer or Firefox. Novice Internet users will find it difficult, if not impossible, to succeed in this field review.

Each district is limited to no more than four representatives per location of their choice (one for each of the four content areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies). Vacancies will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. *Space limitations will ultimately determine how many from each district will be selected. We favor one representative from each of two districts rather than two representatives from one district. There is no guarantee that all four applicants from the same district will be selected, nor that all districts will be represented.*

Registrations are now being accepted here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XW_2fgLPbZw_2bUAE_2fZjDjwM2w_3d_3d

Or visit the MEAP website www.michigan.gov/meap, then click on the "Field Review registration" link near the top. The registration deadline will be Friday, October 10. If your application is accepted, you will receive a confirmation email from us by Tuesday, October 21. Your confirmation email will be your "admission ticket." You must bring a print-out of your confirmation email with you to your session. If your application is accepted but you later determine that you will be unable to attend, you may send a replacement without notifying us. Just be sure to give your confirmation email to your replacement so he/she can bring it along. If you do not receive a confirmation email from

us by Tuesday, October 21, you may assume you were not selected this year. We sincerely appreciate your interest, and hope a denial does not discourage you from trying again next year.

Walk-ins will not be accepted at any site.

Science Instruction, Assessment and DOK

DOK is an abbreviation for Depth of Knowledge. DOK refers to the level of thinking, the level of thought processing a student uses to master a science content expectation, or to answer a MEAP/MME/SCA test item.

Norm Webb, Ph.D., from the University of Wisconsin developed the DOK concept for alignment of standards and assessments. Dr. Webb's DOK curriculum standard alignment method has four levels. While Dr. Webb's text on DOK levels is available on the OEAA website (www.michigan.gov/oeaa), here is a brief summary:

- DOK 1: Recall and reproduction of concepts, facts, simple procedures
- DOK 2: Application of science concepts, facts, methods to recognize establish relationships, draw conclusions, etc.
- DOK 3: Engage in strategic or abstract scientific thinking, scientific model development, by complex association of multiple science concepts applicable to a situation.
- DOK 4: Extended scientific thinking such as selecting a scientifically-based approach among many alternatives to complete a project, solve a problem, conduct an investigation.

In August 2008, the science unit within the OEAA, with support from science staff in MDE's Office of School Improvement (OSI), completed a study to assign DOK ratings to each Science Content Expectation (SCE) among the K-7 and high school science curriculum standards. The DOK for each SCE informs Michigan science educators the highest DOK associated with a SCE to promote instruction that enables students to master the SCE at appropriate levels of thinking, and provides OEAA with a reference to prepare test items that measure student performance at the SCE's highest DOK.

The DOK for each expectation was determined by discussion and consensus among a group of four Michigan and four out-of-state science teacher-leaders. James Woodland from the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc. conducted the study, actively moderating teacher discussion for consensus. The group met in Lansing. Dr. Webb was a technical advisor to the study. The study, along with the DOK table for the K-7 and high school SCEs, is now available on the OEAA website (www.michigan.gov/oeaa).

- **Science Instruction** - An important point regarding Michigan's new K-7 and high school science standards is its alignment to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) standards. As such, Michigan's new standards emphasize rigorous content and higher-order thinking. Science educators who teach and rehearse (e.g., labs, homework, etc.) students so that they master a SCE at its DOK level, enable students to attain a more rigorous science education. *Note that a higher DOK level does not necessarily mean that a SCE at DOK 2 or 3 is harder or easier than a SCE with a DOK 1. Instead, the higher the DOK 2 indicates the student must use their science knowledge and skills with situations and tasks that require thinking beyond simple recall of information.*
- **Science Assessment** - The MEAP tests and MME require approval of the US Department of Education (DOE). DOE standards for test approval state that a test must align to the concepts, scope, and rigor (i.e., DOK level) of Michigan's science education standards.

The OEAA will continually improve test item development to meet the DOK alignment. Students are expected to demonstrate higher levels of scientific thinking when assessed by their MEAP tests and MME. For more information, contact Rodger H. Epp of the OEAA at 517-373-1931.

MI-Access Modified Full Independence: Part 1

(First in a series of articles)

The US Department of Education published on April 9, 2007, the final regulations that addresses the development of an additional alternate assessment for students that have current Individualized Educational Programs (IEP). The regulations build upon the flexibility that is currently available in *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) for testing the achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Many States, as well as recent research, indicated that in addition to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, there is a small group of students whose disability has precluded them from achieving grade-level proficiency and whose progress is such that they will not reach grade-level proficiency in the same time frame as other students. The only current state assessment options are the state's regular assessment and their alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS). Neither of these options provides an accurate assessment of what these students know and can do. The regular assessment is too hard and the AA-AAS is too easy and does not address the full range of content like the regular assessments do.

Current Michigan state assessment options:

| State Assessment | Based Upon | Type of Assessment |
|--|--|---|
| MEAP | Grade Level Content Expectations | Regular |
| MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) | FI Extended Grade Level Content Expectations | Alternate based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) |
| MI-Access Supported Independence (SI) | SI Extended Grade Level Content Expectations | Alternate based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) |
| MI-Access Participation (P) | P Extended Grade Level Content Expectations | Alternate based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) |

The new regulation provides an option for states to develop an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards (AA-MAS) in order to assess this small group of students for whom the MEAP or the current MI-Access assessments are not appropriate. States have the option whether they want to have an AA-MAS or not. If a state does chose to develop and AA-MAS they can chose what grade(s) and content area(s) will be assessed using an AA-MAS.

Michigan has chosen to develop an AA-MAS for grades 3-8 in the content areas of English language arts and mathematics. It will be called MI-Access Modified Full Independence or MFL (Modified Full). The regulation requires that this assessment must be based on the same grade-level content standards as the state's regular assessments... not extended standards. Only the achievement standards can be modified, not the grade-level content standards. In addition, the regulations specify that if a state chooses to administer AA-MAS they must establish clear and appropriate criteria for IEP Teams to apply in determining whether a student should be assessed with an AA-MAS in one or more content areas.

The MDE was awarded a US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG) to develop the MI-Access Modified Full Independence assessments and the Michigan Online Professional Learning System (MOPLS). The grant is a collaborative effort between the offices of the OEAA, Special Education and Early Intervention Services, School Improvement, and Educational Technology and Data Coordination. Other partners who are involved with the grant are Cheeney Media Concepts2, Questar Assessment Inc., Assessment and Evaluation Concepts, Inc. Also a number of freelance English language arts and mathematics consultants are working on the grant including Chuck Allan, Cindy Clingman, Jane Faulds, and Wayne Scott.

However, the key to the success of this grant is dedicated involvement of around 40 Michigan educators, both general and special education, who are members of the MI-Access MFL Assessment Plan Writing Team (APWT). These educators bring a preponderance of experience and knowledge of the content areas and the student population being assessed to the team. The MFL APWT has been meeting since March 2008 to help develop draft eligibility criteria, numerous student case studies, a process for selecting items for the MI-Access MFL assessment, and making recommendations for the content of MOPLS. In addition to the MFL APWT there are MFL Item Selection Teams whose task is to use the MFL Item Selection Process to select items for the MFL assessments. The MFL IST met in August and selected items that will be used to pilot the MI-Access MFL grades 3-8 ELA and mathematics assessments.

The MFL assessments will be piloted in a sample of districts during the winter of 2009. If all goes well with the pilot the state plans on implementing the MFL assessments statewide starting in the fall of 2009. The current plan is to disseminate the draft eligibility criteria to use to determine if a student qualifies to take the MFL assessments during the month of October 2008. Also, additional updates on the progress of the development of the MFL assessments and other informational materials related to them will be provided in future OEAA Updates.

Questions related to the development of the MI-Access Modified Full Independence assessments can be directed to Peggy Dutcher, GSEG Project Director/OEAA Professional Development Coordinator, at dutcherp@mi.gov.

Michigan Promise Scholarship for RESIDENTS Only

Michigan law requires recipients of the Michigan Promise scholarship to be Michigan residents. If you are a nonpublic high school, and you have students who are not Michigan residents, they are not eligible to earn the Michigan Promise scholarship, even if they take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). If you have questions about any aspect of the Michigan Promise scholarship, call the Michigan Department of Treasury at 888-447-2687.

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