



# OEAA Update

Produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), for those who administer statewide assessments in Michigan

Website: [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa) Toll-free: 877-560-8378 Email: [oeaa@mi.gov](mailto:oeaa@mi.gov)

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## Results of Customer Survey

Our thanks to the 4,062 of you who responded to our online OEAA Customer Survey in December. We realize that we place many demands on schools, especially during the testing windows for MEAP, Michigan Merit Exam (MME), MI-Access and ELPA. With few exceptions, schools do a *great* job of managing the various assessments while complying with OEAA's many policies and procedures. As we saw it, our challenge was to help reduce the burden and stress we place on schools while still fulfilling the provisions of Michigan and Federal law.

With the help of some text-analysis software, we are currently sifting through the 19,000 comments you wrote. We'll release a summary of the results soon. Some of the suggestions you made can be implemented immediately; others may take more time.

## Changes to MEAP Fall 2009

Several changes are scheduled for MEAP assessments, beginning in Fall 2009...

1. **MEAP Mathematics and Science** - Beginning with the Fall 2009 MEAP, the OEAA will not use constructed response items in Mathematics and Science. This does NOT mean that we will no longer be assessing the content expectations that were previously associated with constructed response, but that we will be assessing them with suitable multiple choice items designed to measure the underlying concepts. This change will result in a reduction of the time required for students to take the tests. We also expect the amount of information obtained will improve significantly.
2. **MEAP ELA (English Language Arts)** - Many schools voiced concerns about the Fall 2008 MEAP ELA (English language arts) assessments; specifically, about the amount of time it took for students to finish. As a response to this concern, MEAP ELA assessments will now be administered over three consecutive days... not just two. ELA Session 1 must be administered on the first day, ELA Session 2 on the following day, and ELA Session 3 on the last of three days. Each day of ELA testing has been shortened. A *revised MEAP assessment schedule* (Fall 2009 through Fall 2013) is now available at: [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap).
3. **MEAP Test Booklets** will be re-formatted in Fall 2009 using a two-column layout (unless some graphic prevents a two-column layout). Many schools expressed concern that the full-page text was difficult for students to read. We hope this change is more comfortable for students.
4. **"Make up" Test Booklets** - There will be no separate test booklet for make-up tests. A student who is unable to test on an initial test day will the test form assigned to the school on the "make up" date.

5. **Emergency Test Booklets** - In the unlikely event that a school must administer an Emergency test due to a misadministration or school-wide breach of security, an Emergency test booklet must be used at a cost to the school of \$50 per Emergency test booklet. If the need for an Emergency test booklet arises due to a situation beyond the control of the school, there will be no charge to the school for using an Emergency test booklet.
6. **Accommodated Materials** - Beginning in Fall 2009, DVD (video) and CD (audio) will replace VHS-format videotape and audiocassettes for use with MEAP accommodated assessment materials. Continuing advancements in audiovisual technologies have made VHS videotape and audiocassettes nearly obsolete. We believe the time to make the move to DVD and CD is now. If your school is not currently equipped to utilize DVDs and CDs, you may want to discuss with your fiscal office this spring how such hardware could be secured for use this fall. Also, in response to concerns raised by schools, Braille and enlarged-print test booklets will no longer be shipped together with a regular Form 1 printed test booklet.
7. **Barcode Labels** - Answer documents will have pre-printed barcode labels affixed by the contractor, not the school. Schools will be required to affix their own barcode labels only if they fail to enter required student data via the OEAA Secure Site by the Pre-ID deadline.
8. **Shipping Back Materials** - The revised MEAP assessment schedule (found at [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap)) also indicates that schools will now ship back assessment materials to the scoring contractor on a single day. As you may recall from Fall 2008, schools shipped back materials each Friday after each week of assessments. Feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of a single shipping date, so we have responded accordingly: *ship back all testing materials on a single day after all testing is complete*. Please download the revised MEAP assessment schedule for details.

We hope these changes make administering MEAP assessments in Fall 2009 a bit easier for you, more efficient for our scoring contractor, and more cost-effective for the State of Michigan. As always, we welcome your comments at: [oeaa@mi.gov](mailto:oeaa@mi.gov).

## **ACT as an Option to Become Eligible for Installment Payments of Michigan Promise Scholarship**

The revised State School Aid Act (Public Act 268 of 2008) changes the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in several ways. Perhaps the change most greatly noticed by students hoping to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship is the requirement that schools administer the complete MME once and only once to each student.

Michigan law (Public Act 349 of 2008) now gives some grade 12 students the option of becoming eligible for installment payments by taking the national ACT. Here's how it works...

1. The student must **FIRST** take the complete MME, and obtain MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in **ALL** of the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. If the student's MME scores are insufficient for installment payments, the student could then choose to take the national ACT.

2. If the student were to then take the national ACT, and achieve a certain score (yet to be established by the Michigan Department of Education) or higher, the student would then become eligible for installment payments, provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements established by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

For more information, visit the MME website at: [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme).

## **New Requirements for High School Social Studies**

In addition to all other eligibility requirements, a student who takes the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in 2009 or after must now also achieve an MME score of Level 1 or 2 in Social Studies to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship.

Also, beginning with the high school graduating Class of 2011, students must have taken at least three credits of high school Social Studies to become eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship. We are working closely with the Michigan Department of Treasury to resolve issues related to students with a personal curriculum. As we learn more, we will advise schools.

If you have questions about these changes, please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury which is solely responsible for administering the scholarship (call 888-447-2687 toll-free).

## **Using MEAP/MME Study Guides**

For the sake of future MEAP testing, please note... The OEAA reviewed the assessment questions used by StudyIsland.com and determined that use of StudyIsland.com questions during the 10-day period prior to MEAP administration would be a violation of the Professional Assessment and Accountability Practices for Educators. It is also likely that any other MEAP or MME study guide would also constitute a violation.

However, it is our understanding that StudyIsland.com, among other study guides, is used by many schools as an instructional tool throughout the year. So if the ASSESSMENT portion of StudyIsland.com or other study guide is disabled by the school, the school may continue to use the INSTRUCTIONAL component of StudyIsland.com or other study guide during the 10-day period.

If you are ever in doubt about what may or may not be used as an instructional tool during the ten school days prior to the MEAP assessment window (that period covered by "the 10-Day Rule"), please contact the OEAA at 877-560-8378 before you enter the 10-day period.

## **MI-Access Fall 2008 Results**

School and districts results for the Fall 2008 MI-Access Grade 3-8 are now available on the OEAA Secure Site at [www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure). In addition, Questar Assessment, Inc. has begun shipping printed reports with the Fall 2008 Grade 3-8 MI-Access results.

Please be advised that until these results are released to the news media by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), districts are limited in what they may distribute or discuss. Once the district coordinators distribute reports to schools that participated in MI-Access assessments, schools are permitted to:

- Send Parent Reports to parents
- Disseminate individual scores to students
- Discuss Fall 2008 MI-Access results internally among school staff for the purposes of focusing classroom instruction

Districts and schools MAY NOT discuss with or release to students, parents, the news media, or publish any school or district summary reports until the MDE releases such data to the news media. The date for public release of the Fall 2008 MI-Access results will be scheduled and announced soon.

If you have questions related to the MI-Access program, please contact MI-Access toll-free at 877-560-8378 or send an email to: [mi-access@michigan.gov](mailto:mi-access@michigan.gov).

## **MI-Access Spring 2009 Assessment**

The grade 11 Spring 2009 MI-Access assessment window is February 16 - March 31, 2009. Assessment materials have been shipped and will begin arriving in districts this week for schools that entered student count information on the OEAA Secure Site ([www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa-secure)) by January 21.

As a new procedure this spring, all materials have been packaged according to school, including an overage, and will be shipped to the district MI-Access coordinator. It will be the responsibility of the district MI-Access coordinator to distribute the materials to the school MI-Access coordinators. Tracking information for each box shipped can be found on the OEAA Secure Site by clicking on the Material Orders/Tracking link.

It is very important to inventory your materials to determine if there any missing materials and if any additional materials are needed.

If you did not enter counts by January 21 or if you need additional materials, a district level user of the OEAA Secure Site may order them using the Material Orders/Shipment Tracking link on the OEAA Secure Site. Instructions can be found in the OEAA Secure Site User Manual located on the Announcement page after you have logged in.

If you have any questions about entering counts, please call 877-560-8378 or e-mail [mi-access@michigan.gov](mailto:mi-access@michigan.gov).

## **MI-Access Spring 2009 Webcast**

The MI-Access Spring 2009 Grade 11 Webcast was broadcast on February 6. This event provided District and School MI-Access Coordinators with the information needed to help the Spring 2009 MI-Access assessment administration process go smoothly. The recording of the webcast is now available at [www.mistreamnet.com](http://www.mistreamnet.com).

## **MEAP-Access Pilot Assessment (Modified Full Independence)**

The MEAP-Access pilot is being administered in over 600 districts throughout Michigan. The pilot ended February 12 and a final report presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) on March 17, 2009.

The US Department of Education issued regulations regarding Alternate Assessments based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS). The regulations permit a state, as part of its assessment and accountability system under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Act, to adopt such standards and to develop an assessment aligned with modified academic achievement standards.

The MEAP-Access Pilot assessment is based on modified achievement standards and cover grades 3-8 grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for mathematics and English language arts. This assessment addresses the assessment needs for students that are in between the MI-Access Functional Independence and MEAP.

This MEAP-Access 2009 Pilot has been a collaborative effort of the MDE and other stakeholders including, the offices of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Office of School Improvement, other state departments, district educators, and assessments experts. Each grade and content area will use the pool of MEAP items that were written from the grade level content expectations for mathematics and English language arts. Two forms of the proposed MEAP-Access assessments are being piloted at each grade level.

The purpose of the pilot is to determine if the development process has been successful in producing an assessment that is more appropriate for participating students. It is anticipated that with SBE approval, the MEAP-Access assessment will be available as an operational assessment for the Fall 2009 test cycle.

## **Survey of Grade Level Content and High School Course Content Expectations**

Responses to the Western Michigan University survey of the Grade Level Content and High School Course Content Expectations are arriving slower than similar surveys in 1999 and in 2002. This survey, entitled "Impacts of Statewide Social Studies Assessment in Classrooms, Schools, and School Districts in Michigan," will provide important information regarding the effects of educational policies and changes initiated by the Michigan legislature and Michigan Department of Education over the past two years. It is available at: <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~ldechano/sscc.htm>.

The deadline for completing questionnaires has been extended to April 1, 2009. Please encourage teachers/leaders in your school district to respond. If you have questions about this survey, please contact Lisa DeChano-Cook at [lisa.dechano@wmich.edu](mailto:lisa.dechano@wmich.edu), or call her at 269-387-3536.

