

Please see **4 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Fall 2012 MEAP Test Administration Manual Revisions, 2) SBAC Releases Sample Items and Performance Tasks, 3) Committing to the Spring 2013 ELPA Online – Deadline is Friday, October 19th, and 4) Spring 2013 EXPLORE-PLAN Ordering Instructions.

1) Fall 2012 MEAP Test Administration Manual Revisions

Test Administration Manuals for Fall 2012 MEAP underwent major revisions this year and as a consequence some errors have been discovered (including some that appear across grades). Corrected replacement pages are available at the link below. We apologize for any inconvenience.

http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-182847--,00.html

2) SBAC Releases Sample Items and Performance Tasks

On October 9, 2012, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) released a set of sample assessment items and performance tasks in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics to help teachers, administrators, and policymakers prepare for next-generation assessments. These items and performance tasks are not intended to be used as practice tests, but rather are intended to showcase the variety of items being developed by SBAC and to aid in planning instructional shifts that will be needed to help students meet the demands of the new assessments.

The sample items and performance tasks, along with a wealth of information about this release, can be accessed at:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/news/smarter-balanced-releases-sample-assessment-items-and-performance-tasks/>.

SBAC welcomes your comments on the sample items and performance tasks through the use of the online form available on their website. Also, a helpdesk has been established for feedback and support regarding the sample items and performance task and the helpdesk will remain available for four weeks. The helpdesk contact information is located in the upper right corner of the English language arts and mathematics sample webpages.

We hope you will take part in this important opportunity to interact with sample items and performance tasks from the next generation assessments that represent the future of ELA and mathematics testing in Michigan.

3) Committing to the Spring 2013 ELPA Online – Deadline is Friday, October 19, 2012

This is a friendly reminder that the final day to sign up for the Spring 2013 ELPA Online is **Friday, October 19, 2012**. If you have decided to commit to ELPA Online for Spring 2013, THANK YOU! Please complete the sign-up survey by clicking the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELPASpring2013SignupSurvey>

The sign-up survey is directed at districts that are **committed** to participating in the computer-based version of the Spring 2013 ELPA. However, this commitment is not “all or nothing” for your district – you may choose which buildings within your district you would like to have participate.

IMPORTANT! Districts will not have the ability to change their selection for paper-pencil or online after the close of the sign-up window on Friday, October 19, 2012.

How to Learn More About the Spring 2013 ELPA Online

If you are interested in signing up, but would like more information, we are offering informational WebEx sessions on the following dates and times:

Monday, October 15	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To sign up for one of these sessions, please go to the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ELPAOnlineWebExRSVPSpring2013>

Additionally, if your district is interested in learning more about the Spring 2013 ELPA Online, please view our online presentation and overview, FAQs, and promotional flyer located in the “Spring ELPA Online” section of our ELPA webpage at

www.michigan.gov/elpa

Spring 2013 ELPA Online Questions?

Please contact ELPA Customer Support at 877-560-8378, select option 5 for ELPA or send an e-mail to ELPACustomerSupport@QuestarAI.com with any questions or concerns related to the sign-up survey or participation in the ELPA Online.

4) Spring 2013 EXPLORE-PLAN Ordering Instructions

On Tuesday, October 9th, ACT sent a communication that included instructions for completing your District Participation Agreement (DPA) and placing a materials order for the Spring 2013 EXPLORE-PLAN Pilot. For those of you who may not have received this communication directly from ACT, a copy of the order instructions can be found on the BAA main webpage (www.michigan.gov/baa) or accessed directly at the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MI_EXPLORE-PLAN_2012-13_Test_Materials_Ordering_Instructions_10-08-12_400662_7.pdf.

Questions?

Please email us at baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.