

Please see **3 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) The January/February Issue of *Smarter News*, 2) Fall 2012 MEAP, MEAP-Access, and MI-Access Printed Reports Shipped, and 3) 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Application Now Available.

1) The January/February 2013 Issue of *Smarter News* Is Now Available

The January/February 2013 issue of *Smarter News* – the monthly newsletter from the Smarter Balanced Assessment consortium (SBAC) – is now available. To access the newsletter, please click the link below:

<http://smarterbalanced.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/r/CEFA253C16B9B345/2C6463F20F003B3A74AF8F7A76570606>

2) Fall 2012 MEAP, MEAP-Access, and MI-Access Printed Reports Shipped

The last shipments of Fall 2012 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), MEAP-Access, and MI-Access printed reports have been shipped. Please inventory your shipment and notify BAA of any printing errors or discrepancies by Thursday, March 7, 2012.

3) 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception Application Now Available

This communication is to inform you that we are now accepting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception applications for the 2013 Michigan School Accountability Scorecards. Districts have until **5:00 PM on Friday, May 3, 2013** to submit new applications.

Please see the below links to the 2013 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception application and instructions, and the list of previously approved 2011 and 2012 1% applications.

Those districts that already have an approved 2011 or 2012 1% application need not reapply, as approved applications are active for three accountability cycles.

The federal rules 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 2012 for grades 3-9 and Spring 2013 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 2013 Accountability determinations.**

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. Please note: SEE student scores will be returned to the resident district, except for schools of choice students.

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 to go above the 1% cap.

- The 2013 District Application for an Exception to the 1% Cap can be found at the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2013_1_Cap_Application_411836_7.pdf
- The 2011 and 2012 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 also posted at: <http://www.michigan.gov/baa-accountability>.

Contact the MDE Office of Evaluation, Strategic Research, and Accountability at (877) 560-8378, option 6 or MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov with any questions.

Questions?

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