Frequently Asked Questions
About Michigan Merit Examination Score Reports
June 2014

1. What is the Michigan Merit Examination? - The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the state high school assessment administered annually during the month of March to grade 11 and eligible grade 12 students. The MME is comprised of the ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam, portions of the WorkKeys® job skills assessment, and Michigan components developed to assess Michigan high school content standards. The MME replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) high school assessment in spring 2007. Students are assessed in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The test items are aligned to Michigan high school content standards.

2. Are schools required to administer the MME? - Yes. Federal and state laws require public schools to assess students in certain grade levels. The MME assesses juniors and eligible seniors while the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assesses grade 3-9 students. These assessments provide a way to measure all Michigan students in the same subjects, at the same time. The tests provide valuable information to parents on their student's academic performance.

3. What are the new Michigan Career- and College Ready Benchmarks? – The new Michigan Career- and College-Readiness Benchmarks became effective for the 2011-2012 school year. These new benchmarks require students to attain a higher score than in the past to reach the Partially Proficient, Proficient, or Advanced performance levels in the content areas of mathematics, reading, science and social studies.

For more information about the benchmarks and new cut scores, please see the "MEAP and MME Career- and College-Ready Cut Scores FAQ" document located in the Reporting section at www.michigan.gov/mme.

4. My son took the ACT separately from the MME. Can he use that ACT score as part of his MME score? - No. The National ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam taken independently of the MME is not the same test as the ACT Plus Writing® offered on Day 1 of the MME. The scores cannot be swapped. It is specific items from the ACT Plus Writing® test administered on Day 1 of the MME, not the ACT scores, that contribute to the MME subject area scores. The MME must be taken in its entirety, which includes the ACT Plus Writing®.

5. Is the ACT taken as a part of the MME accepted by colleges as a valid ACT entrance exam? - Yes, if the test was taken under college-reportable conditions, meaning Standard Testing or with ACT-Approved Accommodations. If you are uncertain about the conditions under which the student's test was taken, please contact your high school's Guidance Office.

6. What is WorkKeys®? - WorkKeys® is a national assessment that measures job readiness skills in the areas of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. WorkKeys® test results compare the skill levels required by jobs in the WorkKeys® job profiles database to those of individuals who have taken the WorkKeys® assessments. In the spring of 2011, Day 2 of the MME included three WorkKeys® tests: Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information.

Depending on the scores earned, students who took the English (non-translated) version of WorkKeys® tests may have qualified for the National Career- Readiness Certificate. WorkKeys® scores were reported directly by ACT through the student's high school. The

WorkKeys® certificate level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) for which the student may be eligible is reported on the Individual Student and Parent Reports. More information on WorkKeys® and the National Career- Readiness Certificate can be found at www.act.org/workkeys.

7. Can the state average scores from the ACT portion of the MME be compared to the average scores from the annual ACT High School Profile of each year's graduating class? – No. The state average scores for the ACT portion of the MME are the averages taken from only the grade 11 college-reportable ACT scores in the current administration of the MME. The average scores shown in the annual ACT High School Profile are the averages of the most recent college-reportable ACT scores for high school seniors who took the test as sophomores, juniors, or seniors.

8. How do MME scores impact accountability status? - The accountability process under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* for a school or district is complex and involves data from many sources. Results from the MME are simply one part of the total calculation. Accountability status is reported separately by the state when all elements of the process have been assembled. For more information about accountability, please go to www.michigan.gov/ayp.

9. Where can I find more information regarding MME results on the web? - Go to www.michigan.gov/mischooldata. Results can also be accessed at www.michigan.gov/mme, then select "Assessment Results". You will find information on state, district, and school results, downloadable school and district summary files, and other information to aid your understanding of the MME results.