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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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TO: LEA and ISD Superintendents, Public School Academy Authorizers and Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer/Deputy Superintendent

DATE: September 7, 2007

SUBJECT: DRAFT SCHOOL REPORT CARDS FOR DISTRICT AYP, HIGH SCHOOLS, ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS

The purpose of this memo is to update you on two items related to the Michigan School Report Card for 2007: the deadline for appeals for district AYP, high schools, alternative schools and special education centers and the 1% cap on the number of proficient scores used when determining AYP for students with disabilities assessed on alternate achievement standards (MI-Access).

Report Card Appeal Deadline

The Department of Education has made available the draft 2007 School Report Cards for district AYP, high schools, alternative schools and special education centers. Authorized users of the Report Card system can access the draft Report Cards using their MEIS username and password at the web site <https://oeaa.state.mi.us/ayp/>. Appeals are now being accepted, so that the appeals may be reflected in the Report Cards when they are released to the public. The time period for filing an appeal of the 2007 report cards will be through midnight of September 28, 2007. No appeals will be accepted after this period. Note that this deadline applies to Report Card appeals, including corrections to any data that is included in the draft Report Cards. The firmness of this timeline is necessary in order to meet the target date for the public release of the report cards for district AYP, high schools, alternative schools and special education centers.

The major change in the 2007 Report Cards is the use of data from the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) and from the MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence v 1.5 assessments. The only change from last year in AYP determination is in the calculation of the Option 1 Interim Flexibility, which is used in situations where the only reason that a school does not make AYP is because of the achievement of the students with disabilities group. Under federal guidance, MDE cannot include provisionally proficient scores when using the Option 1 Interim Flexibility.

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States are required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to make a determination as to whether each school district makes AYP. MDE makes a separate determination of district AYP at the elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grade 11) ranges. Michigan considers a school district to make AYP if the district makes AYP at one of the three grade ranges. District AYP is determined for all districts where there is more than one school where AYP is determined.

1% Cap

Michigan's alternate assessments (MI-Access Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence) fall under the NCLB 1% cap regulation since these assessments are based on alternate achievement standards. The rules permit up to 1% of the total district enrollment at the grades assessed for students, who participate in alternate assessments, based on alternate achievement standards, and surpassed or attained the performance standard on these alternate assessments, to be counted as "proficient" for the AYP determination. Please note that this regulation does *not* limit the number of students who can participate in alternate assessment. In order to exceed the 1% cap, Federal rules require that school districts apply for state approval if a district has a specific reason they need to exceed the 1% cap across the district. School districts and public school academies that had an approved application for exception to the 1% cap in the 2006 Report Card cycle do not need to submit the application for 2007.

The **2007 Application for an Exception to the 1% Cap on Students Proficient Using Alternate Achievement Standards** is posted on the MI-Access web page at www.michigan.gov/mi-access in the "Assessment Window Information" category. In addition, the form **2007 Application to Request Reallocation of Functional Independence Suppressed Scores** is available at the same site. This form should be use in cases where MDE suppressed proficient scores for students with specific special education categories who were administered the MI-Access Functional Independence assessment. The due date for these forms will be also be September 28, 2007. No applications will be accepted after midnight September 28, 2007. Note that many districts submitted these application forms during the elementary and middle school appeal period. Please contact MDE staff if you have any questions related to the submission of either of these forms to ensure that you are submitting the correct form(s).

Please feel free to contact MDE staff in the Accountability and Accreditation unit at (517) 373-1342 (email aypcontactus@michigan.gov) if you have questions or if you need additional information on these issues.