



## Frequently Asked Questions

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The following is a simplified summary of MEAP-Access, intended primarily for parents. Educators may desire a more thorough analysis of issues regarding the use of MEAP-Access. For the answers to additional questions, please call 877-560-8378 or email [oeaa@mi.gov](mailto:oeaa@mi.gov).

1. ***What is MEAP-Access?*** - MEAP-Access is an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards. It is designed for students who have access to grade-level instruction, yet struggle to become proficient in the academic content areas of Reading/Writing and Mathematics in the same timeframe as their peers.
2. ***Which students are eligible to take MEAP-Access?*** - In the past, students with disabilities may have participated in MEAP with accommodations, which may have proved inappropriately difficult, or they may have taken the MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) assessment which did not provide an appropriate level of challenge. These students should be considered for MEAP-Access, if they meet all other criteria for eligibility. The complete "MEAP-Access Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Participation" document is available at [www.michigan.gov/meap-access](http://www.michigan.gov/meap-access). We have also added a "Assessment Decision Flowchart" to the webpage to assist in the decision-making process for all statewide assessments.
3. ***Do students taking MEAP-Access need to have an IEP?*** - Yes. Since this is an alternate assessment, the IEP team must document their decision on assessment participation by content area.
4. ***What grades and content areas are assessed?*** – MEAP-Access is for grades 3-8 only and is administered during the fall MEAP testing window. The content areas assessed are Reading, Mathematics and Writing (grades 4 & 7 only).
5. ***Is there a limit on how many students can participate in MEAP-Access?*** – NO! Students should have equal opportunity to participate in statewide assessments and no limit or cap on participation is allowed. This is often misunderstood, since AYP calculations can use up to 2% of proficient scores for accountability purposes. This does not restrict the number of participants in statewide alternate assessments.
6. ***Why would schools want to administer MEAP-Access?*** - MEAP-Access is desirable for eligible students for the following reasons:
  - May be more appropriate for students than MEAP or MI-Access.
  - MEAP-Access is shorter than MEAP, with fewer questions to answer.
  - Some items include graphics or introductory pieces to provide context.
  - Multiple choice questions have fewer options than MEAP.
  - Cut scores will be set appropriately for the student population.
  - Items have some complexities reduced while still assessing grade-level standards.
  - Opportunity to count additional proficient scores (up to 2%) that might otherwise not even be proficient on the MEAP.
7. ***How will MEAP-Access results count toward AYP?*** - The MEAP-Access results will be used to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the school and district. All students that take MEAP-Access are counted toward the 95% participation requirement

for AYP. Up to 2% of student's proficient scores in tested grades across the district may be counted toward AYP.

8. ***Are students allowed to participate in more than one level of the assessments (MEAP, MEAP-Access and MI-Access)?*** – Yes. Students may be assessed with either MEAP, MEAP-Access, or MI-Access (Functional Independence only) in each content area. This decision should be made independently for each content area by the student's IEP team. Administrators should take note of the differences between test types when preparing for administration, since they may differ significantly (see number 13 below).
9. ***When will MEAP-Access be administered?*** - MEAP-Access will be administered October 2011, during the same window as the MEAP. The testing schedule will mirror MEAP.
10. ***Who will coordinate MEAP-Access testing in my school district?*** - Each public school district and nonpublic school district will designate one individual in the district who is responsible for the administration of MEAP-Access to eligible students in that district. If no person is so designated by the school, the OEAA will assume the district's MI-Access Coordinator will also serve as the district's MEAP-Access Coordinator. The MEAP-Access District Coordinator will be responsible for assuring that students scheduled to take MEAP-Access are indeed eligible under the established criteria, for assuring the assessments are administered in accordance with procedures established by the OEAA, and for assuring the return of all testing materials for scoring according to timelines.
11. ***Are students required to take MEAP-Access?*** - No, it is an alternate assessment option for Michigan students. Every public school in Michigan is required to assess every student in their school using a statewide assessment authorized by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Whether the student takes the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Examination (MME), MI-Access, or MEAP-Access depends upon the school and/or the student's IEP Team.
12. ***If a student takes MEAP-Access will he/she be eligible for a diploma?*** – Participation in the assessment would not automatically preclude the student from diploma consideration. It is important to note that though the assessment does not test beyond grade 8, a divergent instructional path may interfere with the student's ability to progress toward the standards as needed to meet all the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
13. ***What is the difference in administering MEAP, MEAP-Access and MI-Access?***
  - a. **MEAP** and **MEAP-Access** are tests where students work independently and/or in conjunction with a predetermined set of accommodations.
  - b. **MI-Access** is designed to have administrators more closely involved in the process with the students. Students taking the functional independence tests mark their booklets and the administrators transfer the responses to the student answer document.