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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 1, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Local and Intermediate School District Special Education Directors  
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers  
District and School Assessment Coordinators  
Public School Principals  
Nonpublic School Administrators

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

SUBJECT: MEAP-Access Operational in Fall 2011

As previously announced, MEAP-Access will return as an operational assessment in fall 2011. The return of MEAP-Access will result in the following continuum of assessment options for students with disabilities in grades 3 – 8:

- MEAP (without accommodations)
- MEAP (with accommodations)
- MEAP-Access
- MI-Access Functional Independence
- MI-Access Supported Independence
- MI-Access Participation

The operational MEAP-Access assessments for fall 2011 will include reading, writing, and mathematics.

The Michigan Department of Education has developed and revised tools to assist Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams in the identification of students for whom MEAP-Access would be appropriate. For instance, the *Michigan Statewide Assessment Selection Guidelines* document was recently updated for 2011-2012 and is available at [www.michigan.gov/oaaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oaaa), and the *MEAP-Access Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Participation* has been updated and posted to the MEAP-Access website at [www.michigan.gov/meap-access](http://www.michigan.gov/meap-access). The Department has an Assessment Selection Guidelines interactive training module as part of the Michigan Online

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Professional Learning System (MOPLS) at <http://mi.learnport.org>. We encourage your IEP Teams to use these resources as they determine the appropriate assessment for students with disabilities this fall.

The Department will host a MEAP-Access webcast on September 13, 2011. Details on the training webcast will be sent directly to assessment coordinators, principals, and special education contacts in advance of that event.

It is crucial that Michigan has as many eligible students participating in this assessment as possible in order to set standards and continue to have this test available. A lack of participation in this assessment in the fall of 2011 will signal that Michigan does not necessarily need this assessment, and it could be discontinued. There is no limit on the number of eligible students that may participate in MEAP-Access. There is however, a cap on the number of student proficient scores that can be counted for accountability purposes (2%).

Further questions should be directed to Dr. Joanne Winkelman, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services at 517-335-0457 or email [winkelmanj@michigan.gov](mailto:winkelmanj@michigan.gov) or Dan Evans, Office of Standards and Assessment at 517-335-1165 or email [evansd2@michigan.gov](mailto:evansd2@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance