

Legislative Changes to Michigan Merit Examination (MME)

(Revised 12-8-08... Please discard any previous version)

The revised *State School Aid Act* (Public Act 268 of 2008) significantly affects the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The table below describes the legislative revisions, and how the revisions are being incorporated into the Spring 2009 MME.

	Legislative Revision	Implementation
1	Requires inclusion of extended writing sample.	Essay portion of ACT Plus Writing® satisfies this requirement. To be implemented with Spring 2009 MME.
2	Prohibits inclusion of more than one extended writing sample.	Social Studies essay scored for Writing has been eliminated.
3	Requires inclusion of all necessary components to make students eligible for a nationally recognized work force readiness credential.	WorkKeys Locating Information sub-test has been added. When combined with WorkKeys Reading for Information and Applied Mathematics sub-tests, requirement satisfied. To be implemented with Spring 2009 MME.
4 *	<p>Requires schools to administer the complete MME once and only once to each student.</p> <p><i>(See notes at right and below.)</i></p>	<p>Beginning in Spring 2009, schools will administer the complete MME to two groups of students:</p> <p>A. Grade 11 students who have not yet taken the complete MME. (Schools will NOT administer the MME to a grade 11 student whose IEP designates the student should take MI-Access.)</p> <p>B. Grade 12 students who never took the MME, and to grade 12 students who took the MME but did not receive MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in one or more MME subjects (reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies).</p> <p>Schools must advise grade 12 students who are eligible to take the MME (as described in Group B above) that they are not yet eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship, and that if they wish to become eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship, they must take the complete MME. Schools are then required to offer the complete MME to such grade 12 students.</p>
5	Requires Michigan Department of Education to identify which High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) need to be taught before and after middle of grade 11 to clarify which HSCEs will be covered on MME.	Legislation signed into law too late to implement in Spring 2009 MME. Will be implemented for first time in Spring 2010 MME.

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* Legislative revision #4 in the table above essentially places a student who took the MME in grade 11 into one of three categories:

1. A student who did not take the complete MME and therefore did not qualify for the Michigan Promise scholarship because they did not receive MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in all the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. This student is eligible to take the complete MME as a grade 12 student.
2. A student who qualified for the Michigan Promise scholarship and was eligible for installment payments by scoring *Advanced (Level 1)* or *Proficient (Level 2)* in all the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, and Science tests, and also has an MME score (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in Social Studies. This student is not eligible to re-take the MME.
3. A student who qualified for the Michigan Promise scholarship but was not eligible for the installment payments because, while they received MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in all the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies, they scored *Partially Proficient (Level 3)* or *Not Proficient (Level 4)* in one or more of the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, or Science. This student is not eligible to re-take the MME, but may have an opportunity to take an optional assessment depending on legislation currently before the Michigan legislature (see "Proposed Optional Way" below for details).

The three categories above also apply to a student who took the MME in grade 11 and then "repeats" grade 11 (was "retained in grade," "reclassified as grade 11," etc.). A student who took the complete MME and received MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in all the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies may never again take the MME, even if the student repeats grade 11.

Proposed Optional Way to Become Eligible for Installment Payments

Legislation (House Bills 6412 and 6413) has been introduced that would allow an eligible student in grade 12 (as described in Category 3 above) to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship by taking ACT as an optional assessment after taking the complete MME. The legislation proposes that the student must FIRST take the complete MME and obtain MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The legislation proposes that the student would assume the cost of taking ACT as the optional assessment. The state would assume the cost of taking ACT as the optional assessment one time for students eligible for free or reduced lunch who apply for but are denied a fee waiver from ACT.

While there is no guarantee, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) believes the legislation (House Bills 6412 and 6413) will be signed into law. Until then, this option for a grade 12 student is simply a proposal. If and when it becomes law, the OEAA will promptly notify schools. The Superintendent of Public Instruction would establish "cut scores" (qualifying scores) for the optional assessment to be used by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

The OEAA will be following this legislation closely.

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UPDATE 12/8/08

House Bills 6412 and 6413 passed the Michigan House of Representatives on 12/4/08 and were sent to the Michigan Senate for consideration. While the OEAA is hopeful the bills will be adopted by the Senate and sent to Governor Granholm for signing into law before the legislature adjourns in December, it is impossible for us to predict with certainty what will occur or when. We will keep you advised as we learn more.

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