

**State Board of Education  
Reaffirmation of Support of  
Essential Education Policy Positions**

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education agree with the Governor and the Legislature that quality pre-K-16 education holds the key for Michigan's future.

We believe in our children's ability and their potential to achieve at the highest levels possible. We also believe in their right to pursue their hopes and life dreams. We recognize in these changing times, students are most likely to succeed if they are well-prepared for lifelong learning and necessary career changes as opportunities arise. These characteristics are not commonly found in the current workforce.

Students won't be prepared for tomorrow without consistency, stability, and high standards for our educational system today. The State Board of Education reaffirms its support of four essential education policy positions:

1. The Michigan Department of Education's plan for an orderly transition from the "paper and pencil" MEAP test to an online assessment linked to rigorous state learning standards (including the Smarter Balanced Assessment) in the 2014-2015 school year.
2. Performance-based funding focused on student progress, as proposed in the Executive Budget recommendation for fiscal year 2013.
3. Maintenance of the rigor required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
4. Michigan Department of Education staffing as requested in the Executive Budget to support a strong Department that implements State Board of Education policies, and state and federal legislation.

The State Board of Education asks the Michigan Legislature to support and incorporate these four essential education policy positions as they deliberate the State's budgets and reform bills.