



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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With the notification Monday, March 27 of the dates for the Spring 2007 Michigan Merit Exam, there have been a number of responding emails regarding the dates -- especially the make-up testing dates, which fall on dates that some districts have their Spring Break scheduled.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan feels it is important to explain why the state must use those dates and how the Michigan Department of Education takes into consideration every possible variable when determining dates, including state laws and dictates from ACT, the main component of the Michigan Merit Exam.

The 2007 dates the state must use to administer the components of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) are:

March 13 - ACT
March 14 - WorkKeys+ Michigan Math
March 14-21 - Michigan Science and Social Studies

March 27 - ACT Makeup
March 28 - WorkKeys + Michigan Math Makeup
March 28-April 5 - Michigan Science and Social Studies Makeup

The dates that the MME are administered are dictated by the state laws that created the exam last year (testing must be within the last 90 days of the school year - therefore after mid-March) and ACT policy (no state ACT assessments within two weeks of the mid-February or mid-April national test dates).

Using the latest date that schools will be in session as June 15, the MME test could not be administered any earlier than March 12 (roughly 90 days prior to June 15). And considering that a national ACT test is given on April 14, the latest we could give our own ACT make-up test would be the week of March 26 (two weeks prior). Therefore, limitations prescribed in state law and national ACT policies require the state to have the MME administered in the four-week window detailed above.

The 7-day window for the makeup tests (March 27-April 5) allows each school district the flexibility to work around their Spring Break schedules.

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March 27, 2007 is the makeup date for the ACT Plus Writing assessment. March 28, 2007 is the makeup date for WorkKeys + Michigan Math component. Districts can choose one day between March 28 and April 5 to administer the remaining three Michigan components, one Science part and two Social Studies parts. However, all three of the Michigan components must be administered on the same day. There is no need for the testing to spill over to the first week of April, unless that is more convenient for schools... or vice versa, depending on when a school district's Spring Break falls on the calendar.

By early next week, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) here at the Department will have the MME testing dates for 2008, 2009, 2010 on its Michigan Merit Exam webpage: www.michigan.gov/mme

OEAA also will be holding a video conference Thursday, April 27 on the Michigan Merit Exam. Contact your MEAP coordinators for details.

We appreciate your understanding that the Department must comply with state law and the dictates of the ACT in the administration of the Michigan Merit Exam. We will strive to make testing as accommodating as possible for school districts, educators, and students, within the parameters of the law.

Respectfully forwarded on behalf of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan.

Martin Ackley
Director of Communications
Michigan Department of Education