



OEAA Update

Produced by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA), for all who administer statewide assessments in Michigan. Please post in some conspicuous location.

Website: www.michigan.gov/oeaa Toll-free: 877-560-8378 Email: oeaa@mi.gov

MME Tested Roster: April 28-May 1

MME Tested Roster will be open April 28 through May 1. During this time, and ONLY during this time, schools can verify that Spring 2009 MME answer documents were received by the scoring contractor for all students who tested on each of the three MME testing days (Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3).

Issues must be submitted for missing students, missing answer documents, or to combine answer documents for a single student with multiple records in the Tested Roster.

The Tested Roster review process is a critical step for schools to complete. MME scores cannot be generated for missing students, students with missing answer documents, or for students with split records. Students for whom we cannot generate MME scores will not count as "tested" for AYP purposes, nor will they be eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship.

For specific instructions, MME test supervisors and high school principals should refer to an email entitled, "MME Focus - Special Issue for Tested Roster" that will be distributed soon.

Item Writing Workshops 2009

The OEAA received an overwhelming response from Michigan educators wishing to help us write items for future statewide assessments (MEAP, MME, SCAS). We received over 300 applications for the 30 positions we needed to fill. Each application was carefully reviewed by the OEAA assessment specialists and our contractor, Pearson Assessment. Notification of the status of each application will soon be sent via email to all who applied.

Thank you all for your interest in this important activity!

ELA Reading Constructed Response Questions

New, short-answer, constructed response reading questions were field-tested on the MEAP ELA assessment in Fall 2008. A 3-point rubric, specifically designed for each constructed response, was used for scoring. Since the items were being field-tested, they did not count toward a student's score.

Starting with the 2009 MEAP, there will be one constructed response Reading question at each grade level for the Independent Reading Selection. The item will be scored for comprehension only; writing will not be evaluated. Because of the individualized nature of the rubrics, they will not be released until after testing, when the actual items are released.

There have been numerous questions from teachers across the state about these new constructed response items. Sample questions for each of the released Independent Reading Selections from 2005-2007 have been posted on the MEAP website www.michigan.gov/meap in the section labeled "Content Areas." Look for "Sample ELA Reading CRs 2005-2007." (Schools should already have copies of the Reading selections for these years.)

ELA Writing, Grades 4 and 7

The Michigan State Board of Education recently approved changing the MEAP Writing assessment from an annual assessment in grades 3-8 to testing in grades 4 and 7 only. Field testing of the new assessment will be conducted in Fall 2009 and will become operational in Fall 2010. The new MEAP Writing assessment will be a longer, more comprehensive writing assessment that measures a broader range of writing grade-level content standards, thereby improving the reliability of the assessment.

A Writing Assessment Advisory Committee was convened to discuss the test design. The Committee recommended the following, to be implemented starting in Fall 2009:

1. Keep "Writing from Knowledge and Experience" with the 6-point rubric (W.PR.03.01 or W.PR.06.01)
 - Limit the options to two narrative suggestions
 - Keep the statement that allows the student to write about the theme "in their own way," in case the first two options do not appeal to the student
 - Add some feature-based scoring component (essentially transforming Comment Codes into points)
2. Increase the "Revising and Editing the Student Writing Sample" multiple-choice items from 13 to 16 to increase reliability and to assess more GLCEs
3. Keep the "Peer Response to the Student Writing Sample" with the 4-point rubric (PR.03.04 or PR.06.03)
 - Ask students in grades 4 and 7 the same question. "What could the writer do to improve this sample?" (Since the samples vary, the responses will differ. The highest points will be awarded for specific suggestions about how to improve the sample compared to a formulaic response.)
 - Add a feature-based scoring component
4. Add an informational writing constructed response that focuses on organizational text structures with a 5-point rubric (W.GN.03.03 or W.GN.06.03)
 - Grade 4 students write a comparison piece
 - Grade 7 students write a cause/effect piece
 - Add a feature-based scoring component

ACT Option for Michigan Promise Scholarship

The revised State School Aid Act (Public Act 268 of 2008) changes the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in several ways. Perhaps the change most greatly noticed by students hoping to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship is the requirement that schools administer the complete MME once and only once to each student.

Michigan law (Public Act 349 of 2008) now gives students the option of becoming eligible for installment payments by taking the national ACT test. Here's how it works...

1. The student must FIRST take the complete MME, and obtain MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in ALL of the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and

Social Studies. If the student receives a Performance Level of 3 or 4 in one or more MME subjects, the student is eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship after two years of successful post-secondary enrollment. If the student would like to qualify for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship, the student could then choose to take the national ACT.

2. If the student were to then take the national ACT and score a Composite 21 or higher, the student would become eligible for installment payments, provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements established by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Please refer to the *Frequently Asked Questions* found on the MME web page (www.michigan.gov/mme, then click on "ACT Option") for help in understanding this new law.

Also, if you have a senior who has the need and desire to take advantage of this option, please know that *the deadline to register for the June 13 national ACT is May 8*. The June 13, 2009, national ACT is the *last opportunity for students in the Class of 2009* who have the need and desire to take advantage of this option.

New Testing Dates for MME

New testing dates have been established for the Spring 2011 MME. With the help of ACT, Inc., the OEAA was able to move MME testing to one week sooner. Please note the following dates:

	Spring 2011	Spring 2012
<i>Initial dates</i>	<p>March 1 - ACT Plus Writing®</p> <p>March 2 - WorkKeys® Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information</p> <p>March 3 - Michigan Mathematics, Michigan Science, and Michigan Social Studies</p>	<p>March 6 - ACT Plus Writing®</p> <p>March 7 - WorkKeys® Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information</p> <p>March 8 - Michigan Mathematics, Michigan Science, and Michigan Social Studies</p>
<i>Make-up dates</i>	<p>March 15 - ACT Plus Writing®</p> <p>March 16 - WorkKeys® Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information</p> <p>March 17 - Michigan Mathematics, Michigan Science, and Michigan Social Studies</p>	<p>March 20 - ACT Plus Writing®</p> <p>March 21 - WorkKeys® Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information</p> <p>March 22 - Michigan Mathematics, Michigan Science, and Michigan Social Studies</p>

Spring 2010 MME testing dates remain unchanged (March 9-11 and 23-25).

For the revised MME testing schedule, visit www.michigan.gov/mme, and click on "MME Testing Schedule." You will also find a link to a new document that describes the process taken by the OEAA when establishing MME testing dates.

Test Blueprints for Fall 2009 MEAP Assessments

We have received several requests for information on the content of Fall 2009 MEAP assessments. There are several changes coming this fall.

- The Reading and Writing assessments have been separated so that Reading will be assessed in Grades 3-8 and writing in Grades 4 and 7 only.
- Mathematics will be reported by Focal Point instead of Strand, and will now include previously Future Core items as part of each student's score (for further information, please see the article above).
- Science will no longer include constructed response items, substituting multiple choice items that assess the same content as was previously covered by constructed response.
- The Social Studies assessments are unchanged from last year.

The tables that follow show the number of operational items that will be appearing on the Fall 2009 MEAP assessments. In addition, there will be several field test items on each form of the assessments. The Writing assessment blueprint will be presented as soon as it is finalized. *(Please note: The Mathematics table below shows the grade level of the GLCEs rather than the grade in which the assessment is given.)*

Reading							
	Grade						
Domain	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Comprehension	16	17	12	14	14	12	
Informational Text	1	4	3	3	3	3	
Narrative Text	10	6	14	10	10	13	
Word Study	4	4	2	4	4	3	
Total	31	31	31	31	31	31	

Science		
	Grade	
Strand	5	8
Constructing	9	12
Earth	12	12
Life	12	15
Physical	12	12
Reflecting	6	6
Total	51	57

Mathematics						
	Grade					
Strand	2	3	4	5	6	7
Algebra					18	22
Data	2		2	4	2	6
Geometry	7	13	2	11	3	9
Measurement	14	17	5	11	4	
Numbers & Operations	21	22	43	26	26	14
Total	44	52	52	52	53	51

Social Studies		
	Grade	
Strand	6	9
Civics	10	10
Economics	10	10
Geography	10	10
History	10	10
Total	40	40

Fall 2010 MEAP assessments will include operational testing of the new Science and Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations. Field-testing of items aligned to the new GLCEs will be conducted in the Fall 2009 MEAP assessments.

Core and Extended Core Designations for Mathematics GLCEs Change

The release of the K-8 Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) for Mathematics in 2004 ushered in a new era in assessment. For the first time, states were required by the federal government to assess students at grade level in Mathematics and English Language Arts, specifically in grades 3-8. Recognizing that educators needed time to adjust curriculum to

reflect the shift in assessing at grade span around broad benchmarks to grade level assessments based on specific expectations, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) designated some expectations as “future.” Working with the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM), the MDE identified those expectations which represented content not typically taught at that grade level. These “future” expectations were assessed and feedback to the schools on student performance on these expectations was provided, but they would not count toward AYP until the 2009 testing cycle.

With the need to incorporate the future expectations into the AYP score in the Fall 2009 MEAP assessments while at the same time the need to shorten the test to accommodate the one-day window for assessment, MDE reorganized the core, extended and future designations using the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Focal Points as a guide. The NCTM Focal Points identified key mathematical content that should be the focus of instruction at each K-8 grade level. This instructional focus should serve as the starting point for developing a coherent, well-connected curriculum focused on important Mathematics; content expectations are the end-points for learning. What resulted are Michigan Focal Points, which are the focus of instruction that should surround our GLCEs. Core GLCEs are now those GLCEs linked to a Michigan Focal Point and as such will be tested with two items on the MEAP. Extended GLCEs are those expectations either not linked to a Focal Point or too specific to merit two items on the MEAP.

A new Core and Calculator Designation document is now posted on the MDE web pages www.michigan.gov/glce and www.michigan.gov/meap. (The designation of GLCEs as not appropriate for calculator use is also addressed in this document.) Other supporting documents will be posted as they are developed. Questions about the Michigan Focal Points should be directed to Ruth Anne Hodges at hodgesr3@michigan.gov. MEAP design questions should be directed to Kyle Ward at wardk2@michigan.gov.

Home Language Survey Tool

The Home Language Survey is a useful tool for schools to help determine which of their incoming students, if any, must be screened with the ELPA Initial Screener to assess English proficiency. This easy-to-use, two-question document may be downloaded at: www.michigan.gov/documents/Home_language_survey_52531_7.dot. If either answer to the two questions is “yes,” the student is eligible to be assessed using ELPA or ELPA Screener, depending on the time of year. Based on this assessment, as well as other locally-determined criteria which should include expert opinion, a district will refer to their own internal policy regarding entrance to or exit from ELL programs to make a decision regarding placement of a student. If you have questions about district ELL policies, please contact the MDE Office of School Improvement at 517-373-8480.

If you have questions about using the ELPA Initial Screener, please contact the ELPA team at the OEAA (phone 877-560-8378, or email oeaa@mi.gov).

2009 MDE Assessment & Accountability Conferences

Registration will be available by May 29 for the 2009 MDE Educational Assessment & Accountability Conferences at www.gomiem.org. Conference dates and sites are listed below. Please mark your calendars and watch for more details in the coming months.

- August 25 – Marquette
- September 21 – Grand Rapids
- September 28 – Novi