



Michigan Educational Assessment Program and Michigan Merit Examinations

Understanding the MEAP and MME

The Assessment program designed by the Michigan Department of Education serves many purposes. Test data is used to determine student's levels of proficiency, where students need additional instructional support, for teacher efficacy data and for school snapshots of performance. These tests are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which is federally required information under the No Child Left Behind Act and shows the progress of students at each school.

Students in grades 3-8 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests in Reading and Mathematics. Students in grade 4 take a multiple-choice Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assessment in writing.

Students in grades 5 and 8 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) in Science. Students in grades 6 and 9 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) in Social Studies. The tests are given in October and show what a child has learned to do over the course of their education to that point. Students in 11th grade take the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies. The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) assessments are given in the Spring.

The assessments are varied in terms of their development. The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) was developed in alignment with the standards and expectations of the Michigan Curriculum Framework. The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) uses tests developed by ACT® – the ACT Plus Writing® Assessment and three WorkKeys® Assessments as well as tests developed in conjunction with the Michigan Merit Curriculum for Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

The State of Michigan graduation requirements are credit-based; the scores on these assessments alone do not determine graduation eligibility. It will serve as the representation for the level of work a student is achieving in a content area.

Taking the MEAP and MME

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests for grades 3-8 include multiple-choice and short-response answer questions. The test is meant to determine if a child has been learning from instruction based on the Curriculum Frameworks over their school years. There are two days of testing in Reading, two days of testing in Writing, one day in Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. For students with disabilities, appropriate testing accommodations are offered.

At the high school level, students take the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in the spring of their 11th grade year. There are three different parts to the Examination: the ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam, the WorkKeys® job skills assessments in reading, applied mathematics and locating information and the Michigan developed assessments of social studies, mathematics and science. These assessments

occur over a three day period. The first day is approximately 3 ¾ hours of testing; the second day is two ¼ hours of testing and the third is 1 ¾ hours of testing.

At all grade levels students' scores are reported on a scale. Students fall into one of three categories: Advanced, Proficient or Partially Proficient. A cut score is the point at which the level between one of these categories exist.

Format of the MEAP and MME Examinations

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests are given in multiple-choice and short-response formats. For the Reading Assessment skills covered will include: meaning/communication, language, literature, skills/processes, genre and critical thinking skills. The Mathematics Assessment covers topics on: patterns/relationships, geometry/measurement, data analysis/statistics, numerical concepts, algebra, probability and discrete mathematics.

For students in grades 5 and 8, the Science Assessment covers topics in scientific knowledge, life science, physical science and earth science. For students in grades 6 and 9, the Social Studies Assessments covers historical, geographic, civic and economic perspectives on world history.

All questions developed are grade-level appropriate and cover what would be taught to the point of schooling the child has attained. The standards of instruction on which the content of the tests are based are fully laid out in the Michigan Curriculum Framework.

For students in 11th grade, the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) consists of three different tests. The first is the ACT® Plus Writing. This is a 30 minute essay test with only one prompt as a question. The purpose of the test is to evaluate a student's ability to make and develop a statement. The essay, which is scored by human readers, is scored by a 6 point rubric that evaluates the overall development of the ideas articulated in the essay.

The WorkKeys® assessment in Reading for Information tests students on the reading and writing skills that would be used in their future jobs. Texts include letters, memos, directions, policies, regulations, etc. The Applied Mathematics portion asks questions using the type of math used in the workplace. The Locating Information assessment asks students to use graphic-based documents (graphs, charts) in the finding of information.

The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) tests students on their academic learning in mathematics, science and social studies. The questions are based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum and designed to assess a student's proficiency with the high school curriculum. All questions on these assessments are multiple-choice.

Get Your Child Ready for the MEAP and MME

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