



MEAP Overview (Michigan Educational Assessment Program)

The Michigan Revised School Code (1977) and the State School Aid Act (1979) require:

- the establishment of educational standards
- the assessment of students' academic achievement

Accordingly, the State Board of Education, with the input of educators throughout Michigan, approved a system of academic standards. Called the **Michigan Curriculum Framework**, these standards provided a foundation on which local school districts could develop and implement a local curriculum.

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests were then designed to determine **what students know** and **what students are able to do**, as compared to these state standards, at key checkpoints during their academic career. The tests are annual snapshots that provide valuable feedback. Educators use the resulting data to analyze their classroom assessment practices, instructional strategies and professional development needs. Hundreds of educators from throughout Michigan continue to be involved in the development and ongoing improvement of the MEAPs.

No other national assessments measure what is expected of Michigan students, or measure the performance of Michigan students against these established academic standards.

The MEAP tests have been recognized nationally as sound, reliable and valid measurements of academic achievement. Students who score high on these tests have demonstrated significant achievement in valued knowledge and skill. Further, the tests provide a common denominator to measure how well students are doing, and to assure that all Michigan students are measured on the same skills and knowledge, in the same way, at the same time.

MEAP Schedule

- English Language Arts assessments are administered at 4th & 7th grades.
- Math assessments are administered at 4th & 8th grades.
- Science and Social Studies assessments are administered at 5th & 8th grades.
- The High School MEAP (with all four content areas) is given in 11th grade, with options for early testing as well as retesting.

By 2006, students will begin to take these tests annually, as required in the new federal No Child Left Behind legislation

The Michigan Curriculum Framework, on which the MEAP tests are built, includes four types of standards.

1) Standards for Assessment

- Organization of complex information
- Consideration of alternative solutions and strategies
- Subject area content
- Subject area process
- Elaborate understanding through written communication
- Connect problems to the world beyond the classroom
- Ability to communicate knowledge to an audience beyond the school

2) Standards for Instruction

- Teach higher order thinking skills
- Instruct to a level of deep knowledge
- Engage students in substantive conversation
- Instruct in ways that allow students to connect content to the world beyond the classroom

3) Professional Development Standards

- Professional development must center on providing teachers with the skills to apply the Framework Standards

4) Content Standards

- Math
- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science