

For Immediate Release  
(date)

Contact: (your name & number)

## **TAKE THE TEST: DISCOVER WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING**

(*city*) – Community members throughout (*name of area*) will head back to school November 11-15 to discover for themselves the critical thinking examined in the annual MEAP tests (Michigan Educational Assessment Program).

“The MEAP tests are an important snapshot of student progress. The depth and complexity of skills tested in math, science, reading, writing and social studies often surprise people once they see the test,” said (*superintendent name & district*). “Today’s students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking and reasoning skills at far earlier ages than we typically were.”

Local officials, business people, parents and community members will meet at (*what school*) to test their skills with MEAP questions from (*what grades*). They will be hosted by (*district name*) educators and (*superintendent*) will lead them through the test. (*other event details*)

The MEAP tests are the primary component of Michigan’s new school accreditation system, called Education YES. The system includes MEAP scores and trends, plus other important learning indicators such as family involvement, school facilities and teacher quality.

The community is invited to review sample test questions, get MEAP tips and homework help through the district website (*address*) and the sites of many of the statewide educational organizations such as Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators and Michigan School Public Relations Association ([www.masb.org](http://www.masb.org), [www.gomasa.org](http://www.gomasa.org), [www.mspra.org](http://www.mspra.org)). Just click on the “Take the Test Day” link and learn about the test and helpful websites.

“The MEAP test is one measure of success,” said State Superintendent Tom Watkins, “but only one, and we all know that kids are more than a single test on a single day. But because the MEAP is important, all Michigan citizens need to understand and appreciate the rigorous state standards we have set for our students and schools. I invite our statewide community to see why this is not a basic skills test. Come take the test!”