

Five Things Parents Need to Know

A New Definition of Proficient on State Required Tests

1. Each year, public school students in grades 3-9 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test and 11th graders take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).
2. The Michigan State Board of Education recently approved new MEAP and MME “cut scores” for Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies. A cut score is the score that separates test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient.
3. The new cut scores are higher and “raise the bar” for our students. They are intended to be a better measure of student progress toward being career and college ready.
4. While we anticipate an initial decline in the number of students reported as “proficient,” we are confident this change will be temporary due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.
5. If your student is reported as “not proficient,” it does not mean that your student isn’t gaining academic skills or is falling behind. It means that on the day of the test, your student was not *yet* proficient on the material being tested. Several other measures are used in our district throughout the year to ensure that your student is making academic progress.

We maintain high standards for our students and their test scores are often among the highest in the county. We anticipate this trend will continue even with the new cut scores.

If you would like additional information about changes to the MEAP or MME, please contact your building principal or <http://1.usa.gov/statetests>.