

## **IEP Team Decision-Making for the Michigan Merit Examination**

In spring 2007, the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is scheduled to replace the current Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) High School Test (HST). The MME will be administered at that time if it is approved by the U.S. Education Department by November 1, 2006. If it is not approved, then the MEAP HST will be administered.

The timing of the approval process means that Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams will need to consider appropriate assessment accommodations for both the MME and the MEAP HST for spring 2007. Beyond accommodations decisions, IEP Teams will need to decide if the MME is appropriate for their student, or if he or she should take MI-Access, which will continue to be available as an alternate. However, IEP Teams must keep in mind that the percentage of students who should participate in MI-Access will continue to be small, since those assessments are currently designed for students who have, or function as if they have, a cognitive impairment.

### ***Components of the MME***

The table below shows how the MME will be organized. There will be three assessment booklets and three corresponding answer folders. Schools will administer a particular set of assessments on each of three days.

- On the first day, ACT Plus Writing will be administered in five parts.
- On the second day, WorkKeys and Michigan mathematics will be administered in three parts.
- Schools may choose to give the science and social studies assessments in three back-to-back parts on any single day during Days 2 through 7.

In addition to showing the MME's organization, the table below provides the number of multiple choice (MC) items and prompts that will appear in each part of the assessment; the actual testing time; and the estimated time for administration, including check in, instruction, testing time, breaks, and collection of materials. All parts of each assessment will be timed and must be administered at the same time of day to all students in a given high school. These assessment organization parameters are designed to provide consistent and high levels of test security, increase test validity, and minimize the interruption of instruction.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAMINATION Spring 2007 Test Organization						
Day *	Assessment	Subject Session	Number of Parts	Total Items	Testing Time (minutes)	Estimated Time Required for Administration
Day 1 March 13 (Makeup March 27)	ACT Plus Writing	75 MC items	5	75 MC items	45	Total test time, including check in, instructions, breaks and collection of materials = 5.0 hours
		60 MC items		60 MC items	60	
		40 MAC items		40 MAC items	35	
		40 MAC items		40 MAC items	35	
		1 prompt		1 prompt	30	
Day 1 testing time = 205 minutes (3 hrs / 25 minutes)						
Day 2 March 14 (Makeup March 28)	WorkKeys	Reading for Info	3	33 MC items	45	Total test time, including check in, instructions, breaks and collection of materials = 3.0 hours
		Applied Mathematics		33 MC items	45	
	Michigan Developed	Mathematics		14 MC items	20	
Day 2 testing time = 110 minutes (1 hr / 50 minutes)						
Days 2 - 7 March 14-21 (Makeup March 28- April 4)	Michigan Developed	Science	3	46 MC items	50	Total test time, including check in, instructions, breaks and collection of materials = 3.5 hours
		Social Studies		31 MC items and 1 prompt	50	
				26 MC items and 1 prompt	50	
One additional day during days 2-7 testing time = 150 minutes (2 hours / 30 minutes)						
* More detailed information about this schedule and the MME Program is available on the MME Web page at <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mme">www.michigan.gov/mme</a> .				TOTAL Minutes	465	
				TOTAL Hours	7.75	

### Accommodations on the MME

There are two categories of accommodations for the MME. The first is ACT-approved accommodations, which can be used by a student and will result in (1) college reportable ACT scores, and (2) scores that can be used for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Education YES! calculations, as well as for determining a student's eligibility for the Michigan Merit Award. The second category is state-allowed accommodations, which will result in scores that count for the Michigan Merit Award, Education YES!, and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) AYP, but may not result in college reportable ACT scores. The differences come primarily from the fact that ACT is bound to provide accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, while the state may permit additional accommodations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. ACT must be more restrictive in order to ensure that college reportable scores are comparable nationwide.

### MME Accommodations Summary Table

In order to facilitate provision of appropriate accommodations, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has worked closely with ACT to develop an *MME Accommodations Summary Table*. This helpful document contains information on the MME component scores (for example, it lists all the pieces of the MME that contribute to the overall score for mathematics). The table also contains directions on how it should be read,

details on requesting accommodations from ACT, a summary of the ACT review process, and information about local decisions for WorkKeys and the Michigan components of the examination. The table then lists all the accommodations from the State Board-approved *OEAA Accommodations Summary Table* (June 2005) for MEAP and MI-Access. Each accommodation contains comments from ACT and fields indicating whether or not it (1) is standard or nonstandard for Michigan components and MME scores; (2) may be requested for use on the ACT and WorkKeys components; and (3) will result in college reportable ACT scores. The table is available on the MME Web page at [www.mi.gov/mme](http://www.mi.gov/mme) under the “What’s New” category.

### ***Requesting Accommodations***

If it is determined that a student needs accommodations on the MME, the accommodations must be officially requested. Each district is responsible for assigning a Test Accommodations Coordinator (TAC) to work with ACT to ensure that accommodations decisions and approvals are resolved before the assessment window opens. In the fall, ACT will send a mailing to each TAC (or school principal if no TAC has been designated) that includes two application forms customized for Michigan—one for ACT-approved accommodations and one for state-approved accommodations. The TAC is responsible for obtaining information from IEPs regarding which students need which types of accommodations and submitting supporting documentation for ACT-approved accommodations. The type of accommodation (ACT-approved vs. state-approved) is important because students receiving one type of approved accommodation will have different materials and be tested in a different room than students receiving the other.

The requesting process contains deadlines for application submission to ensure that ample time exists for each TAC to appeal any ACT-denied accommodations requests, and to apply for state-approved accommodations if the appeal is denied. ACT will send information along with any denial indicating why the request was turned down. Reasons may include insufficient documentation, no justification for the accommodation documented in the student’s IEP, or no history of the accommodation being used prior to planning for the ACT. Specific requirements for ACT-approved accommodations include documentation of initial diagnosis, reconfirmation of disability within the last three years, and a copy of the accommodations page from the student’s current IEP or 504 Plan.

### ***Resources***

More information on the MME can be found on the MME Web page at [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme), including the *MME Accommodations Summary Table* mentioned earlier and Michigan legislation documenting the replacement of the MEAP HST with the MME.

Another important resource is the MME Accommodations Briefing, which originally took place on March 6, 2006, and was archived at

[www.mistreamnet.org](http://www.mistreamnet.org) for continued viewing (click on “Archived Streams” in the left-hand column, then click on the MEAP and MI-Access icon under “Categories”). Videotapes or DVDs of the briefing may also be ordered from Brenda Hose at [hoseb@resa.net](mailto:hoseb@resa.net) or 734-334-1437.

Finally, another live videoconference is scheduled for April 27, 2006. It is called “The Michigan Merit Examination: Plans for Implementation in 2007,” and will cover a range of topics, including the assessment schedule, the MME content and scoring, required school personnel roles, applications for site approval, applications for accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners; the benefits of ACT and WorkKeys to students and schools; and preparing schools and students for the exam. The videoconference will originate from Wayne RESA and will be distributed to a number of confirmed host sites. For more information on this upcoming event, go to [www.mi.gov/mme](http://www.mi.gov/mme) and look under the “Assessment Accommodations” category.