

Medical Emergencies and the MEAS

It is the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that all students participate in the state assessment system. Similarly, federal law (IDEA 2004 and No Child Left Behind 2001) requires that all students, including students with disabilities, be assessed through each state's assessment system. However, obtaining full participation in state assessment is extraordinarily difficult due, in large part, to such uncontrollable circumstances as medical emergencies. That is why when calculating No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the minimum participation rate is 95 percent of enrolled students at each grade level.

If a student in a school or district has a medical emergency that precludes him or her from participating in state assessment, an exception can be granted by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA). Exceptions due to medical emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis, and evidence must be provided by schools either during the assessment period or the report card appeals process. The preferred method of notifying the OEAA is through an e-mail message sent to aypcontactus@michigan.gov. Please include the following information in your correspondence:

- Name of Student
- Grade level
- Name of School and District
- Date(s) of the emergency
- Medical condition or diagnosis
- Date(s) the assessment is scheduled to be administered at the school

Hospitalization and debilitating illness are two examples of “approved” medical emergencies, whereas non-limiting illnesses and pregnancy are examples of situations that would not be approved.