

Fall 2005 Administration Cycle a Success!

Dear Readers,

Congratulations on another successful MI-Access administration cycle! With such a challenging year due to new operational assessments and changing assessment windows, it is encouraging to again see the professionalism and dedication of Michigan educators come through for the students participating in MI-Access.

Fall Review

While you were busy administering assessments to students in grades 3 through 8, a great deal of other work was being done related to curriculum and assessment. For example, the MI-Access Assessment Plan Writing Teams (APWTs) were reconvened to continue the important work of extending the state's grade level content expectations and benchmarks for future MI-Access assessments. The article below, titled "The Future of MI-Access: An Assessment Development Update," provides details about the teams' progress. Many thanks are due to the APWT members for their diligent work on a difficult task.

Progress has also been made on the mathematics portion of the State Improvement Grant (SIG). The MDE and contracted staff have created numerous materials and professional development models, as well as alternative models showing how to apply state content expectations and benchmarks in new ways to improve curriculum and instruction. For more information on the SIG, see the article below called "State Improvement Grant Mathematics Project."

Furthermore, stakeholders from across the state have continued working diligently on developing a curriculum framework (or guide) for the Supported Independence student population. The article below, titled "Supported Independence Curriculum Framework Project," contains updated information on this important document.

Fall 2005 Results

This month, the Fall 2005 MI-Access results were released electronically. To review your district's reports (if you have not already done so), simply log on to the password-protected OEAA Secure Site, select "Student Test Scores" in the menu on the left-hand side, and select the "Fall 2005 MI-Access" assessment cycle. Hard copies of the reports will be provided by BETA/TASA, the MI-Access operational contractor. They will ship them in the order that assessment materials were received for scanning and scoring. If you have questions about the results

(electronic or print versions), please call the MI-Access Toll-free Hotline (1-888-382-4246).

Preparing for Spring

As usual, there is no time to rest on our past accomplishments. The spring MI-Access assessment window for grade 11 students has already started. During this assessment cycle, you may want to review the article below called “Notes from the Contractor for MI-Access Coordinators.” In it, BETA/TASA describes the many assessment materials that districts should have received. District MI-Access Coordinators will recall that last fall materials arrived in as many as four shipments; this spring there were only two shipments.

The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) is also fast approaching. The article titled “Planning for the Michigan Merit Exam” provides updated information on this important topic, including details about the various components of the MME, how it is being piloted during the 2005/2006 school year, and how students with disabilities will gain access to assessment accommodations.

As a last note, the OEAA Secure Site and the MI-Access Online System continue to play a critical role in the successful administration of state assessments. The article below, called “MI-Access Online System vs. the OEAA Secure Site,” contains a table and an accompanying explanation regarding the different functions of each system.

Thank you for your continued efforts to stay current with MI-Access activities. We at the Assessment for Students with Disabilities Program look forward to working with you throughout the remainder of the school year and appreciate your continuing support.

Sincerely,
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