

MI-Access Fall 2005 Standard Setting Completed

In December 2005, the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) hosted panels of educators, administrators, and parents who were charged with recommending performance standards for the various MI-Access assessments (Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence). The meetings were held in Detroit, where stakeholders learned about the assessments, developed Performance Level Descriptors, reviewed performance data from the fall 2005 administration of MI-Access, and made judgments about cut scores—or where the lines should be drawn between the minimum number of points needed to achieve certain performance levels.

The recommendations made by the panelists were presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) in January 2006 and approved unanimously. They are now being applied to the Fall 2005 MI-Access assessment results for students in grades 3 through 8, and will be used for future assessment results as long as the grade 3 through 8 assessment booklet formats and assessed content expectations remain the same. The MI-Access assessment results are one of the measures used by the state to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress for No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Performance standards need to be formally set for two reasons. First, NCLB requires that eligible students in grades 3 through 8 be assessed in each state's assessment system. Since new grade levels were included for the first time this year in MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence (previously only students in grades 4, 7, 8, and 11 were assessed), performance standards for each grade level had to be developed. Second, the Functional Independence English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments were administered for the first time statewide and therefore required the development of performance standards in order to report results. Other panels will be convened following the spring MI-Access assessment window to develop performance standards for the grade 11 assessments.