

Successful Standard Setting for Grade 11 MI-Access

In May 2006, standard-setting meetings took place for the Grade 11 MI-Access assessments that were administered in spring 2006. Standard setting is the process used to determine the criteria for calculating student performance in each of the content areas or performance expectations covered by the assessment. The standard-setting process was conducted by BETA/TASA, the MI-Access contractor, and included more than 70 teachers, ancillary staff, parents, and administrators.

Separate panels were formed for each of the four MI-Access assessments that were administered—Functional Independence English Language Arts, Functional Independence Mathematics, Supported Independence, and Participation. The charge to each panel was to recommend “cut scores” to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The cut scores indicate the minimum number of points needed on each MI-Access assessment to obtain one of three achievement categories—Surpassed, Attained, or Emerging Toward the Performance Standard. These categories are used on MI-Access reports to help explain student performance. In 2005/2006, they also will be used to determine whether or not each Functional Independence student scored in the proficient range for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) calculations.

After the standard-setting panels made their recommendations, BETA/TASA calculated descriptive statistics, such as the mean, median, and standard error, for the recommended cut scores. These statistics were reviewed by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) and the OEAA’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a group of nationally known assessment and measurement experts. Following this review, the OEAA made cut score recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who then made recommendations to the State Board of Education for consideration and approval.

The approved cut scores will appear on the Spring 2006 MI-Access Grade 11 reports. Additional information on how to interpret the cut scores and other student performance data can be found in the 2005/2006 Handbook: How to Understand, Interpret, and Use MI-Access Results. The MDE would like to thank all those involved with the standard-setting process.