

The Assist

Helping Students Access and Make Progress in the General Curriculum

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Education YES! Update

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has been working with the Office of School Improvement (OSI) to develop new School Performance Indicators based on the School Improvement Framework. The School Performance Indicators—which account for one-third of a school's Education YES! letter grade—measure investments that schools are making in improved student achievement using indicators that come from research and studies of best practices.

Part of the joint work involved developing School Improvement Framework Rubrics for Self Assessment that represent five strands, or areas of focus. These rubrics are available at www.michigan.gov/documents/OSI_FW_Rubrics_v_157013_7.3.pdf. Based on a review of research on school improvement, the rubrics were chosen to measure 39 specific characteristics that were identified as having the greatest effect on student achievement. Staff presented these characteristics to the Michigan State Board of Education in December 2006 and recommended using them as Michigan's new School Performance Indicators. The Board accepted that recommendation and added an additional characteristic—related to the mentoring and coaching of new teachers—bringing the total number of characteristics, or indicators, to 40. These characteristics will now be part of the statewide collection of data on School Performance Indicators through MI-Plan. A list of the 40 characteristics that comprise the new Education YES! School Performance Indicators is available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/40_Key_Characteristics_183149_7.pdf.

The MI-Plan data collection window was expected to open in early March and to remain open for at least one month. During that time, schools will log into MI-Plan to complete a self-assessment on the 40 School Performance Indicators and provide evidence of their self-rating. This process is similar to that used in previous years, where the self-assessment was completed at the building level and then submitted to the district superintendent for final approval. The self-assessment will be scored and, as mentioned above, account for one-third of the school's Education YES! letter grade.

One strategy some schools are using for self-assessment is to select the 40 indicators from the 90-rubric document now, print the indicators and corresponding rubrics, distribute them to the school improvement team, have conversations about where the school falls on each of the indicators, and begin thinking about the evidence the school has to support the self-rating. Using this strategy is allowing schools to get a “head start” on the self-assessment process instead of waiting until the MI-Plan collection window opens.

If you have questions about the indicators, rubrics, or any other part of the Education YES! process, please send an e-mail message to Paul Bielawski at bielawp@michigan.gov and Linda Howley at howleyl@michigan.gov.