

FIVE THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

A NEW DEFINITION OF PROFICIENT ON STATE REQUIRED TESTS

Each year, public school students in grades 3-9 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test and 11th graders take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

The Michigan State Board of Education recently approved new MEAP and MME “cut scores” for Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies. A cut score is the score that separates test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient.

The new cut scores are higher and “raise the bar” for our students and give us a realistic picture of how our students are doing and how they are progressing toward being career and college ready.

If your student is reported as “not proficient,” it does not mean that your student isn't gaining academic skills or is falling behind. It means that on the day of the test, your student was not **yet** proficient on the material being tested. Several measures are used within the district and classroom throughout the year to ensure that your student is making academic progress.

Due to the changes in the cut scores, schools will see an initial decline in the number of students reported as “proficient” on the state assessment program. We are confident that the setback in growth trends will be temporary due to ongoing school improvement efforts. Moving forward the focus of professional development will be to assist in realigning core content and redesigning schools to meet the 21st Century learning demands outlined in the Common Core State Standards, which were released and adopted by MDE in June 2010.

If you would like additional information about changes to the MEAP or MME cut scores, please contact your building principal for more information.

