

KURZMAN ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

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Dear Waterford School District Parents/Guardians,

Waterford School District is taking a proactive approach to communicating with parents and the community concerning scoring changes to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) tests this year.

Each year, Waterford School District students, along with all other Michigan public school students in grades 3-9, are required to take the MEAP and eleventh graders are required to take the MME. If you haven't already, you will soon begin hearing news reports about new cutoff scores, or "cut scores" that the Michigan State Board of Education recently adopted for these tests.

So, what are cut scores and why has the Michigan State Board of Education changed them? MEAP and MME cut scores separate test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient. Michigan's previous cut scores for these state tests were set at a very basic level. The intent of raising the cut scores is to give Michigan parents/guardians and students a much better sense of whether they are adequately prepared for the next step in their education and a future career in a global economy.

The new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are designed to more accurately reflect a student's progress toward college and career readiness. Under the new scoring system, students will have to correctly answer a much higher percentage of questions. Michigan is one of only three states in the nation (along with New York and Tennessee) to move to this top tier level of test scoring.

Like school districts across the state, Waterford School District MEAP and MME proficiency results are expected to decline when publicly released next spring. While we anticipate an initial drop in the number of students reported as "proficient," we are confident that our scores will ultimately trend upward due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.

The MEAP and MME tests are only two of several measures used in our district throughout the year to ensure that students are making academic progress. We remain committed to using all assessment results to help improve our practice and to raise student achievement.

For more information, feel free to contact me by phone at 706-3529 or by E-mail at battem01@wsdmi.org

Sincerely,

Michael Batten
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