



Michigan Merit Award Fact Sheet



Description

The Michigan Merit Award is a merit-based program to reward student achievement as measured by the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests. The award is to be used for educational expenses at approved postsecondary institutions. The maximum award is up to \$3,000¹. A maximum of \$1,000 can be used at an out-of-state institution.

Application

November 15th Deadline for Certification

To claim the Michigan Merit Award, an eligible student must meet all program requirements and complete a certification process that includes selecting a payment year option by November 15th of the academic year in which the award is used. For example, in order to use the award in the 2007-08 academic year, the student must certify and select a 2007-08 academic year payment option by November 15, 2007.

If the student fails to certify by November 15th of the applicable academic year, the award will not be paid during that academic year.

To certify online, visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/meritaward.

Program Limits

- Qualified students who graduated high school in 2000 through 2006.
- Students who graduated in 2000 and 2001 have seven years from high school graduation to use the award.
- Students who graduated in 2002 and after have four years from high school graduation to use the award.
- Students who graduated in 2003 and after must divide the award over two consecutive academic years.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE	
Classes of 2000, 2001 and 2002	Class of 2003 - 2006
\$2,500 in one lump sum or... \$1,250 paid over two (2) academic years	The first year payment will not exceed 50% of the total award. The second year, the student will receive the remaining balance. Warning: Failure to use your funds in the next academic year will result in forfeiture of the remaining balance.

¹ Includes the maximum middle school award of \$500. See page 2 for details.

(Continued)

Eligibility for High School Award

- Be a legal Michigan resident or graduate from a Michigan high school.
- Have taken the MEAP high school tests in math, reading, science and writing.
- Qualify for a Michigan Merit Award in one of two ways:

Scoring Level I or Level II on all four high school tests.

Scoring Level I or Level II on at least two high school tests may still qualify but must also meet one of the following:

Alternate A: Scored in the 75th percentile or above on the ACT or SAT.

Alternate B: Achieved qualifying scores on the ACT WorkKeys job skills assessment tests as determined by the Michigan Merit Award Board.

- Must be enrolled at an approved postsecondary institution.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED certificate.
- Must not have been convicted of a felony involving an assault, physical injury, or death.

Additional Requirements:

- Award monies must be used for eligible postsecondary costs.
- The only non-credit courses billable to the program are those courses defined in the institution's course catalog as a requirement for completion of a program. Billable courses are considered postsecondary education courses rather than community education courses.

Eligibility for Middle School Award – Class of 2005 and 2006

- Must take all of the tests offered in the 7th and 8th grades for reading, writing, math and science. Awards will be for scores achieved at either Level 1 or Level 2 as follows:

Two tests - \$250.00

Three tests - \$375.00

Four tests - \$500.00

These awards will be added to a qualifying student's Michigan Merit Award upon completion of the high school MEAP tests and if the student meets all of the other eligibility requirements.

For More Information

Visit www.michigan.gov/meritaward. Contact the **Office of Scholarships and Grants**, toll free at 1-888-4-GRANTS (888-447-2687) or e-mail osg@michigan.gov.