



Participation of Students with Disabilities and ELLs in the Michigan Merit Examination Spring 2007

Michigan Department of
Education
Office of Educational Assessment and
Accountability





Purpose of Presentation

- To provide information for IEP, 504 Plan, and ELL teams to use to help make assessment accommodation decisions for spring 2007 grade 11 students.



Overview of Presentation

- Plans for the spring 2007 Michigan Merit Examination or MEAP HST
- MME Assessment Accommodations
- Applying for Assessment Accommodations

MEAP HST or MME?

- MDE submits application for approval to U.S. Department of Education by June, 2006
- November 1 is the “drop-dead date” for the MME versus MEAP HST decision for Spring 2007



MEAP HST or MME?

- Receive approval from USED prior to drop-dead date OR continue MEAP High School Assessment



MEAP HST or MME?

- Maintain MEAP HST for Grade 12 only
- Option of taking MME, but must take all components



MI-Access

- MI-Access will continue to be available



MME Administration

- Day 1 – the ACT Plus Writing
- Day 2 –WorkKeys Mathematics and Reading
- Days 2-7 – Michigan Components



MME Assessment Design

- English Language Arts
 - ACT English (MC), Reading (MC), and Writing (CR)
 - WorkKeys Reading (MC)
 - 1 Michigan-developed Social Studies CR item



MME Assessment Design

- Mathematics
 - ACT Mathematics Test (MC)
 - Selected items from ACT Science Test (MC)
 - WorkKeys Mathematics (MC)
 - 8 Michigan-developed MC items



MME Assessment Design

- Science

- ACT Science Test (MC)
- 39 Michigan-developed MC items



MME Assessment Design

- Social Studies
 - 52 Michigan-developed items (MC and CR)



MME Accommodations Summary Table

- Introduction
- Accommodations
- Michigan Components and MME Scores
- May Be Requested
- ACT and WorkKeys Components

MME Accommodations

Spring 2007

- Day 1 – the ACT Plus Writing
 - ACT-Approved Accommodations
 - “State-Allowed” Accommodations

MME Accommodations

Spring 2007

- Days 2-7 –WorkKeys Tests and Michigan Components
 - Local Decisions for Accommodations

ACT-Approved Test Accommodations for MME Day 1

- ACT Guiding Principles
 1. Ensure fairness for ALL examinees – those seeking accommodations and those testing under standard conditions

ACT-Approved Test Accommodations for MME Day 1

- ACT Guiding Principles
 2. Ensure ACT results from MME are comparable to scores from other ACT test administrations



Which Laws Apply?

ACT provides test accommodations in accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- **Anti-discrimination statute**
- **Intended for equal access, not equal outcome**
- **“Average person” standard**



Which Laws Apply?

Schools provide accommodations under IDEA and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

- Intended to optimize success



ACT-Approved Test Accommodations for MME Day 1

- ACT scores earned with approved accommodations are reported to and accepted by colleges



ACT-Approved Test Accommodations for MME Day 1

- May be requested for students with disabilities who have current IEP or Section 504 Plan



ACT-Approved Test Accommodations for MME Day 1

- ACT looks at match between student characteristics associated with a diagnosed disability and requested accommodations

The ACT – “State-Allowed” Accommodations

- For ELL students without disabilities
- For students with disabilities whose accommodations are denied
- ACT scores are **NOT** college-reportable



WorkKeys and Michigan Components

- Local decision for accommodations based on needs documented in IEP or Section 504 Plan
- May be different than accommodations used on Day 1



MME Day 1 “State-Allowed” Accommodations

- Request ACT-approved accommodations first for most students – so they can earn college-reportable ACT scores



“State-Allowed” Accommodations

- English Language Learners (ELL)
 - If reason for accommodations is English language proficiency, submit application for “state-allowed” accommodations (not ACT-approved)



“State-Allowed” Accommodations

- Scores earned with “State-Allowed” accommodations will be used for school/district accountability and MME scores
- Standard accommodations
- Nonstandard accommodations



Examples:

Timing/Scheduling

- Item #1 extended time
 - Typical extension of 50%
 - Oral presentation requires triple time
- Item #3 two-week window



Examples: Setting

- Some arrangements don't need ACT approval (e.g., 5, 9, 11, 12, 16)
- Tools for concentration (13) and background noise buffers (17) depend on details

Examples: Presentation

- Scores for some options NOT college-reportable
 - ELL accommodations (26 – 29)
 - Presentation in language other than English (44 - 46)
 - Item 56 – decision depends on details



Example: Presentation: Reader

- **BIG CHANGE FROM MEAP**
- No Michigan developed ELA component
- Reader is standard on all components of the MME.



Examples: Response

- Audio tape or video documentation of test session required for college-reportable scores (64, 66, 67, 68, 74)
- Items 69, 76, 77, and 78 – decisions depend on details



How to Apply for Accommodations



MME Test Accommodations Coordinator (TAC)

- Each school will appoint a TAC for the Michigan Merit Exam

MME TAC

■ Primary Roles

- Determine which students need accommodations
- Determine which request forms to submit to ACT and send with documentation by required deadline



MME TAC

■ Primary Roles

- Coordinate local accommodations decisions for WorkKeys and Michigan components and order appropriate test formats
- Attend TAC training workshop and train local staff



MME TAC

■ Primary Roles

- Check in secure test materials
- Coordinate administration in compliance with instructions
- Return secure materials and administration documentation



Fall 2006 Mailing to TAC

- Will include:
 - Checklist of dates with deadlines
 - Complete procedures for requesting Day 1 (ACT) accommodations



Fall 2006 mailing to TAC

- Will include:
 - Two Forms (one for ACT-Approved Accommodations and one for State-Allowed Accommodations)
 - Test Accommodations Coordinator Header

Application Receipt Deadlines

- December 1, 2006 for ACT-approved accommodations
- January 10, 2007 for “state-allowed” accommodations



Which Form to Submit?

- Request for ACT-Approved Accommodations
- Application for State-Allowed Accommodations



MME Day 1 Accommodations

- ACT-approved and state allowed test materials are different
- ACT-approved and state allowed testing rooms **MUST** be different
- Accommodation - Multiple days



Documentation Needed for MME Day 1 Requests



ACT-Approved Accommodations

- Documentation must meet guidelines that qualified professionals consider appropriate
- Looking for evidence of prior accommodations in similar setting



ACT-Approved Accommodations

- Guidelines available on request forms and on ACT website

www.actstudent.org

(select “Students with Disabilities”)



Eligibility Requirements

- ACT-Approved Accommodations
 - Professionally diagnosed disability that precludes testing with standard time or requires multiple days
 - Current confirmation of diagnosis
 - Current school accommodations

Required Documentation for ACT-Approved Accommodations

- When/who first diagnosed?
- Reconfirmed within the last 3 years
- Copy of test accommodations page from current IEP or copy of current 504 accommodation plan

Required Documentation for ACT-Approved Accommodations

- NOTE: If disability first diagnosed or if plan first started *within last 12 months*, complete written diagnostic documentation is required



Required Documentation for ACT-Approved Accommodations

- NOTE: Complete documentation required if visual, hearing, psychological, emotional, or physical disorder

ACT-Approved Test Accommodations Review Process

- Staff specialist may
 - 1) approve request,
 - 2) refer request to expert reviewer, or
 - 3) determine documentation is missing or insufficient.



If Approved

- January 2007 – TAC receives preliminary roster
- February 2007 – TAC receives individual student approval letters and final roster(s) – one for ACT approved, one for state-allowed



If Not Approved

- ACT sends letter inviting more information
 - Sent to appointed TAC at school
 - Application for “state-allowed” accommodations included with letter

Appeals for Reconsideration

- Denial letter from ACT invites submission of missing information
 - **If available**, submit in writing by specified deadline
 - Fax responses encouraged



Appeals for Reconsideration

- **If NOT available**, choose one of following:
 - Test with standard materials and standard time
 - Submit application for “state-allowed” accommodations

Common Reasons for Denial

- Incomplete application
 - Missing signatures, no copy of IEP or 504, no history of accommodations

Common Reasons for Denial

- No description of impairment to learning caused by condition
 - Diagnosis does NOT equal disability
 - Require objective evidence of effects on learning and academic achievement



Summary

- Consider how MME is administered
- Consider “college reportable” score
- Make sure IEP, 504 Plan, and ELL teams consider accommodations needed for either program
- Who might be the Test Accommodations Coordinator



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