



Robert J. Glass  
Superintendent of Schools

January 10, 2012

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Each year, Bloomfield Hills Schools students, along with all other Michigan public school students in grades 3-9, are required to take the MEAP and MME in grade 11. Depending on the score, the State rates students as Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, or Not Proficient. This year, the Michigan State Board of Education has adopted new standards and raised the cut score that a student must receive in each of the rating categories.

According to the State, the new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are intended to more accurately reflect a student's progress toward college and career readiness. On some tests, students previously could have answered as few as 40 percent of the questions correctly to be considered "Proficient." Under the new scoring system, "Proficient" 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 into this top tier of test scoring.

In anticipation of these statewide changes, the district invited Dr. Ernie Bauer, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment at Oakland Schools to address the board on September 15, 2011. Dr. Bauer's goal was to demonstrate how the new cut scores would result in a decline of student proficiency ratings. Dr. Bauer projected that although more of our students will be rated as less than "Proficient," Bloomfield Hills Schools will continue to rank among the highest in the state.

Our instructional staff has already begun to look at ways to assure all students meet the new state level of "proficiency." Each BHS building is carefully examining its data to determine gaps between the State assessment and instruction. We have begun aligning our curriculum to the new national curriculum known as Common Core State Standards (CCSS). We expect that these revisions will allow students to better demonstrate their skills and knowledge as measured by the higher cut scores in the new tests.

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. Please note that the new cut scores will not affect your child's ACT portion of the MME. The BHS community does not want our schools to teach to the test. In fact, we continue to see positive results from BHS students on a variety of measures, with some of the highest ACT scores in the state and most students attending their first choice colleges upon graduation. At BHS, no matter the changes to test scoring, we remain committed to helping every student attain the necessary skill set to become architects of their futures.

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We anticipate that families may have questions about the new cut scores. For a clear overview of the changes, we recommend viewing a new 11 minute video produced by Wayne RESA, *Understanding the New Michigan Cut Scores*, which is posted via this link:

<http://www.mistreamnet.com/vidflv.php?who=resa121611>

When test scores are released this spring, if you are concerned about the impact of these testing changes on your child's test scores, please direct your questions to your child's teacher or counselor.

We will continue to keep you informed using a variety of district communication tools such as newsletters, email blasts, the district website, Parent Connect, board presentations, and parent-teacher conferences, as information becomes available. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure academic success for every student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Glass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

Rob Glass  
Superintendent