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M-STEP Results: What Charlotte Public School Families Can Expect

This past spring, Charlotte Public School students took Michigan's new statewide test, the M-STEP, for the first time. After nearly 45 years of the MEAP, the change was a big deal for teachers and students alike. Michigan has adopted higher standards for its students in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and the rigorous M-STEP was built to see how close our students are to reaching these standards.

The test was challenging, because it measured higher expectations about what our students should know at the end of each school year, and required students to take the assessments online, write responses and show their work instead of merely filling in a bubble sheet.

With the move to new, better test, student scores may be lower than they were on the MEAP test. This feedback, however, is an important tool for us to understand how our students are doing and where they need more support - which will help all of us do better at educating your child(ren).

- Teachers and parents can use student scores to make sure they're doing all the right things. Working together, they can learn how to support each and every student
- As we learn more about our school's results, we can make decisions that will rapidly improve the services we deliver. Over time, a graduate of Charlotte Public Schools will be stronger and more competitive when it comes to his/her career training and/or college, and in the workplace.
- If, as we expect, this year's scores look different than test scores have in the past, our students won't be negatively affected. We think this year's test scores may appear to be lower than on the MEAP, because the test is not just new, but challenging. This is not a reflection of Charlotte Public School students, but on all the progress that has been happening across Michigan. As we continue to grow with these new, more rigorous standards, test results are likely to improve.

No one likes taking tests, but they are an important way for us to understand how our students are doing, and to find ways to continuously improve learning in our schools.

We are joining with every parent in Charlotte Public Schools to work together to help every child be as successful as possible.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Grant-Ball

Director of Curriculum and Instruction