

C'ville students meet state objectives

By Sue Mason
staff writer

The Clarenceville School District has gotten some good news from the

state Department of Education. A majority of its students met the minimum objectives of the annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

The mathematics and reading tests are given in September each year to fourth, seventh and 10th graders across the state to see how well students are learning.

There are four categories for the test, indicating the students' mastery of the objectives. The first is the lowest — students who master up to 25 percent of the tests' objectives —

while the fourth is the highest — students who achieve at least 75 percent of the objectives.

TEST RESULTS include information on the overall performance of students, a building-by-building breakdown and a three-year comparison of test scores.

Clarenceville fared well in the testing this year after a less than outstanding showing last year, Superintendent Michael Shiller said.

"I honestly believe that the efforts made by our administration and staff had a significant effect on this year's results," he said. "We still have a long way to go to have 90 percent in the top quarter, and I believe that's realistic for us."

The district exceeded the 90 percent goal in the mathematics test given to fourth graders. Of the 134 students who took the test, 94.8 percent mastered at least 75 percent of the goals, up 5.5 percent from last year. The district had no fourth graders at the lower end scale — 50 percent or less of the objectives.

IN READING, 88.8 percent of the fourth graders showed similar skills, up 1.9 percent. The figure held even at 7 percent for those mastering less than 25 percent of the objectives.

At the seventh grade level, 82.7

percent of the students were in the top category in mathematics and 80.5 percent in reading, up 7.2 and 5.7 percent respectively.

There also was a modest 1 percent increase in the number of students at the bottom of the scale — 8 percent in mathematics and 1.5 percent in reading.

The most dramatic improvement came in the 10th grade test scores. Last year, 66.2 percent of the 10th graders tested completed at least 75 percent of the objectives on the two tests. This year 73.6 percent finished in the top category in mathematics and 84.5 percent in reading.

THE OPPOSITE end of the scale — actually, the lack of it — was a pleasant surprise for the district. All of the 129 10th graders tested mastered at least 25 percent of the objectives in both subjects.

"Last year a newspaper called and asked me what my excuse was for the scores," Shiller said. "I told him I wouldn't make excuses. The scores were totally unacceptable especially in math at the senior high level."

"The bottom line now is that we can see that our efforts to correct the problem paid off. I don't believe we're a static institution."

"We need to progress and move forward and that includes everyone from the school board to the community and students."

Liquor control laws addressed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council has joined Oak Park officials in making their feelings known about two pieces of proposed legislation that involve state liquor control laws.

In a 7-0 vote last week, the council adopted a resolution opposing state House Bill 4628. If passed, the legislation would give the Michigan Liquor Control Commission discretion in determining the penalty for liquor licensees who have more than three times violated the state prohibition against selling to minors.

State law now levies a mandatory penalty of automatic revocation when a licensee violates the minors

law more than three times in a calendar year.

"I think three-to-four times (violations) is too many," said councilwoman Jan Dolan.

The resolution, based on one adopted by Oak Park, states that the city supported enactment of the 1986 public act, "which requires the Liquor Control Commission to revoke any SDD or SDD license upon conviction of such licensee of three or more sales within a calendar year to a person under the age of 21."

"THE EFFECTIVE date of this amendment was March 31, 1987, and one calendar year has not passed to determine the effectiveness of this public act..." the resolution continues.

Because of concern that the city

council misunderstood the intent of the house bill, Farmington Hills attorney Norman Farhat told council members that the state Legislature is not attempting to reduce penalties levied against liquor law violators. The law, he said, would give the MLCC the discretion to levy a penalty it considers appropriate once the facts of the violations are brought before the commission in a special hearing.

"They (liquor control commission) have no discretion," said Farhat, who was in the council chambers representing the owners of a proposed Kyoto restaurant at Eight Mile and Haggerty, who had applied for a resort liquor license.

In a second vote on an Oak Park resolution, the Farmington Hills City Council voted 7-0 in support of pend-

ing legislation that would give local governmental units jurisdiction over liquor licenses prior to renewal.

"WE HAVE lost track of those licenses (approved by the city)," Dolan said, adding that the city gives a proprietor a license, which often is "sold back and forth" between various businesses.

City attorney Paul Bibau said that liquor licenses are renewed every year and that the city can participate in a "back-door review. The authority is written in the legislation."

Dolan told city administrators that in the future she would like a review of the city-issued licenses.

"Our police department does monitor the liquor establishments regularly," city manager William Costick said.

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