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Push reaps some higher MEAP scores

BY MARIE CHESTNEY STATE WRITER

Clarenceville School District educators are hoppy with the higher scores the district's ele-mentary and middle school atu-dents earned on the 1994 Michi-gan Educational Assessment Pro-gram (MEAP) tests.

It's the scores earned by high schoolers, especially on the math test, that leave them concerned.

test, that leave them concerned.

Next fall, 11th graders statewide will no longer take the
MEAP tests. Instead, they will
take new proficiency tests in science, math and reading which
educators say will be even more
difficult than MEAP.

"They're going to be tough,"
said Superintendent David Kamsish Thursday during a Clarenceville Board of Education discus-

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sion of the 1994 initial MEAP re-sults. "We can either get with it, or it will be a big embarrasament

again."

The Clarenceville district includes a portion of Farmington

The Clarenceville district includes a portion of Fermington Hills.
Clarenceville has worked long and hard to boost its scores ever since Kamish and the trustees made the tests the district's number-one priority in 1992. They did so because of what they called embarrasaingly low accres earned by students at all three grade levels.
For atudents at Botsford and

s. For students at Botsford and Grandview elementaries and at Clarenceville Middle School, the big push has been well-rewarded.

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At the two elementaries, math scores between 1992-94 have jumped 40 percent; reading, 23.8 percent; and science, 20.5 percent. At Clarenceville Middle, math scores between 1992-94 have jumped 18.5 percent; reading, 8.2 percent; and science, 38.7 percent. But Clarenceville High students still struggle with the tests, especially the math test. Between 1992-94, math acores have risen 5.5 percent; reading, 1.9 percent; and science, 12.4 percent. On the 1994 math test, only 29.9 percent of the students passed the math test; 43 percent passed reading and 57.4 percent the science test.

These results caught the eye of

the trustees Thursday and generated the bulk of the talk about the tests.
"Twenty-nine point nine percent doesn't bode well for when they take the math proficiency test," said Clareneville principal David Simowali, "The wheels are already turning" to boost those scores, Kamiah said.
One option discussed in a many control of the said.

ish said.

One option discussed is a remedial math class, taken by high schoolers not ready for pre-alge-

schoolers not teem of the bra.

"We don't need a short-term fix, but a long-term fix," Simowaki asid. "Working intermittently after achool with them just doesn't work."

Right now, Simowaki is trying to figure how how to help about 25 loth-graders in a pre-alighra course who are failing the course.

These are students, he said, who should never have enrolled in the class, at the class at Characeville High.

Administrators agree that the problem starts in middle school, where students don't schieve the needed math skills and then have no other alternative in high school than the pre-algebra course.

achool than the pre-signer course.

"We have 25 or so who are falling?" asked Vernice Dunkles.

"There's something wrong when that large a number needs leathan a pre-sighers course. That's a high number."

Simowahi asid students are "missing the boat" in middle school and still being recommended for pre-sights.

In January, heald he will seek the board's approval for a remedial math class.

MEAP

from page 1A

will be made, Maxfield said.

"There's some people who say that they don't pay attention to these scores, but of course, they pay attention to it," Maxfield said.

For example, there are six years of reading results to compare.

Overall picture

Overall picture

This year, the district experienced a decline at every grade level in the percentage of those achieving the satisfactory category, according to the report. For grades four, the decline is 4.9 percentage points, at grade seven, 4.3 and at grade 10.2. While the change is not considered significant, the report augments reading scores need a closer look before drawing any conclusions.

look before drawing any concursions.

Of fourth-grade students, 56.1 percent reached the satisfactory level, down from 61.0 last year, but up from 64.6 percent in 1992-93. Of Seventh-grade students, 50.3 percent scored satisfactory this year, down from 64.6 percent last year, but up from 48.8 percent in 1992-93.

At the 10th grade level, those reaching the satisfactory mark were 67.8 percent lown from 60.4 percent last year, but up slightly from 57.3 percent in 1992-93.

In math, which has been an area of concentration in past years, the 1994 scores have increased over 1993 in grade four. In grade seven, there is a slight decrease of 2.6 percent reaching the satisfactory mark; at grade 10 there is "a significant increase" of \$47 cerease."

8.7 percent.
The four-year trend auggests

improvement.
In fourth grade, 75.9 percent acored satisfactory in the math portion, up from 71.2 percent last year and up from 63.8 percent in

1992-93.

In seventh grade, 63.5 percent accred satisfactory in math, down from 66.1 percent, but up from 66.6 percent in 1992-93. At the 10th grade level, 50.0 percent reached the satisfactory level, up from 41.3 percent leat year and 42.6 percent leat year and 42.6 percent leat year and

Science numbers

Science numbers
Unlike math and reading, the science assessment test is based on Michigan's older science curriculum of basic skills rather than the new and more rigorous essential skills curriculum, school officials said.

Farmington student performance at grade five shows a slight increase of T percent. Eighthgraders registered a slight decline of 2.3 percent scoring satisfactory. At grade 11, there is a significant increase of 5.3.

Overall, the six-year trend is able school officials said.

Overall, the six-year trend is stable, school officials said.

Of fifth-grade an addid.

Of fifth-grade andenia, 88.6 percent accord estifactory this year, up from 87.0 percent least year and the same amount (88.6) Eighth-graders reaching the satisfactory level were 71.0 percent, down from 73.3 percent, last year and the exact same amount in 1932-93. Eleventie graders accord statistically bifus year and the search of the year and the percent in 1992-93. But school board member Jack Inch, called the entire MEAP process "a lot of bunk" at a recent study seasion.

"It's a curriculum driver," said

"It's a curriculum driver," said Inch, an economics professor at Oakland County Community Col-lege's Orchard Ridge Campus, "I've been concerned with this for 16 years."

Inch would prefer year-by-year assessments. Many variables come into play when testing, he sald.

said.

Sometimes there are groups of extra bright atudents or those who are non-motivated, "non performers." The MEAP doesn't assembow long the student has been with the district, either, he said.

"Also, some students look at the MEAP and ask "What does this do for me?" Inch said.

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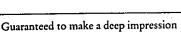
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