

MEAP

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officials are doing an item analysis, to find out 'What items didn't we get?' 'How close are we to being proficient?' 'Are we just one (correct answer) off?'

Mahalak said the district is pleased with how fifth- and eighth-grade students performed in the writing test. At Lanigan and Longacre elementary, the percent proficient jumped by 14 and 15.3 percentage points, respectively. Forest Elementary registered a huge jump, from 79.6 to 98.2. Other jumps includ-

ed 92.2 to 98.9 at Hillside Elementary; 81.8 to 90.9 at Wooddale Elementary and 89.5 to 92.8 at Eagle Elementary.

Performances in the writing test dipped significantly in some elementary, however. Those included: Kenbrook, dropping from 80.3 to 69.7; Beechview, 91.9 to 87; Gill Year-Round, 100 to 77.3.

In the middle schools, Warner eighth graders improved from 79.8 to 89.6 percent proficient in writing while smaller jumps

were registered at East and Power.

Meanwhile, that MEAP target keeps moving. Teachers in writing, science, math and reading—and their students—will have to adjust again this year.

According to Mahalak, all of the MEAP tests, as well as the High School Proficiency Test, will be administered during a two-week period in January.

"Like any change, it has pluses and minuses," Mahalak said. "On the plus side, it'll be less disruptive to the overall curriculum and classes will be interrupted for only one two-week block of time."

And, in the case of math and reading, previously given in the fall, teachers will have more time to get ready for the January testing.

On the other side of the coin, "It'll be all coming at you at one time," Mahalak said.

She asked parents to be patient with the district about MEAP, citing the changes to the test the past two years.

"Everyone needs to understand what students are being asked to do," Mahalak explained. "This is a more rigorous test. We're still in the first couple years of understanding what this test is about."

Students, she continued, performed better in science prior to the change to a test that is more about critical thinking and analysis than knowing facts about a subject.

"It's more than, 'What's the code for iron?' They have to interpret what a diagram means. Students may not have been exposed to those kinds of demands before," Mahalak said.



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Farmington Public School District MEAP Results

Grade 5 - Science

School	1997		1996	
	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient
Beechview	47.3	52.7	37.8	62.2
Eagle	59.4	40.6	47.3	52.7
Flinders	56.8	43.2	41.3	58.7
Gill	40.4	59.6	28.6	71.4
Kenbrook	37.9	62.1	54.8	45.2
Lanigan	49.3	50.7	38.0	62.0
Longacre	81.5	18.5	76.9	23.1
William Grace	30.2	69.8	18.4	81.6
Wooddale	54.5	45.5	53.0	47.0
Forest	56.1	43.9	44.9	55.1
Wood Creek	50.0	50.0	45.2	54.8
Highmeadow	50.4	49.6	40.5	59.5
Hillside	58.1	41.9	42.2	57.8
Gill Year-Round	40.3	59.7	21.1	78.9
District	44.8	55.2	43.7	56.3

Grade 8 - Science

School	1997		1996	
	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient
East Middle	22.7	77.3	23.6	76.4
O.E. Dunckel	23.9	76.1	34.2	65.8
Power	13.0	87.0	23.7	76.3
Warner	18.8	81.2	29.0	71.0
District	21.1	78.9	27.8	72.2

Grade 5 - Writing

School	1997		1996	
	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient
Beechview	87.0	13.0	91.9	8.1
Eagle	92.8	7.2	88.5	11.5
Flinders	97.2	2.8	96.8	3.2
Gill	93.6	6.4	84.5	15.5
Kenbrook	69.7	30.3	80.3	19.7
Lanigan	76.8	23.2	78.9	21.1
Longacre	94.1	5.9	78.8	21.2
William Grace	88.3	11.7	64.3	35.7
Wooddale	90.9	9.1	81.8	18.2
Forest	92.8	7.2	70.6	29.4
Wood Creek	95.1	4.9	93.2	6.8
Highmeadow	98.7	1.3	100.0	0.0
Hillside	98.9	1.1	92.2	7.8
Gill Year-Round	77.3	22.7	100.0	0.0
District	89.7	10.3	84.9	15.1

Grade 8 - Writing

School	1997		1996	
	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient	% Proficient	% Not yet Proficient
East Middle	82.5	17.5	73.3	26.7
O.E. Dunckel	84.8	15.2	87.7	12.3
Power	82.3	17.7	81.0	19.0
Warner	89.5	10.5	79.8	20.2
District	84.8	15.3	80.7	19.3

CLARIFICATION

A story in Sunday's paper inaccurately said that developer Steven Schaefer stormed out of a settlement conference with a judge and a homeowners representative. Also, the story should have indicated that areas zoned RA-1B have minimum lot widths of 110 feet if the area is approved to be part of the city's open space plan.

Jim O'Leary



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Farmington Observer

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48039-2910. Periodicals postage paid at Farmington, MI 48039-2910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48039-2910. Telephone 441-1100

Subscription Rates
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