

# FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MEAP Results

### Grade 4 - Math

1997-98				1998-97			
School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low	School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low
Beechview*	67.4	10.5	22.1	77.9	14.3	7.8	
Eagle	89.7	10.3	0.0	77.0	18.0	4.9	
Flanders	88.9	5.8	5.8	62.1	7.1	10.7	
Forest	83.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	
Gill	83.8	13.5	2.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	
Gill Year-Round	87.0	13.0	0.0	78.9	21.1	0.0	
Highmeadow	88.0	0.0	2.0	94.9	3.8	1.3	
Hillside	82.8	2.2	1.0	81.5	10.9	7.6	
Kenbrook	83.7	9.3	7.0	87.0	11.6	1.4	
Lanigan	88.9	9.7	1.4	68.7	24.6	2.7	
Longacre	78.9	12.7	8.5	65.1	22.2	12.7	
William Grace	70.3	13.5	16.2	52.5	17.5	30.0	
Wood Creek	75.0	19.6	5.4	71.8	16.4	11.9	
Wooddale	82.2	7.8	0.0	78.8	18.1	7.1	
District	84.8	10.9	4.3	77.8	14.9	7.3	

\* Scores under review

### Grade 7 - Math

1997-98				1998-97			
School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low	School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low
East Middle	69.4	20.5	10.3	64.7	21.6	13.8	
O.E. Dunckel	77.2	17.8	5.0	71.7	16.6	11.7	
Power	72.7	20.8	6.7	65.3	22.7	12.0	
Warner	83.8	2.8	2.8	67.4	22.8	9.8	
District	78.5	18.2	6.2	67.3	20.8	11.9	

### Grade 4 - Reading

1997-98				1998-97			
School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low	School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low
Beechview*	65.8	21.1	13.2	67.5	27.3	5.2	
Eagle	75.9	20.7	3.4	80.7	22.9	5.8	
Flanders	77.8	11.1	1.1	57.1	25.0	17.9	
Forest	75.6	22.2	2.2	87.9	12.1	0.0	
Gill	68.2	24.3	9.5	55.0	35.0	10.0	
Gill Year-Round	58.5	34.8	8.7	68.4	26.3	5.3	
Highmeadow	94.1	5.9	0.0	87.2	11.5	1.3	
Hillside	73.2	19.6	7.2	65.2	23.9	10.9	
Kenbrook	61.6	26.7	11.6	59.4	31.9	8.7	
Lanigan	65.3	20.8	13.9	38.2	40.6	23.2	
Longacre	69.0	18.3	12.7	65.1	22.2	12.7	
William Grace	54.1	32.4	13.5	40.0	32.5	27.5	
Wood Creek	60.0	34.5	5.5	59.7	23.9	16.4	
Wooddale	80.4	11.8	7.8	71.4	17.9	10.7	
District	69.7	21.4	6.9	62.7	28.3	10.9	

\* Scores under review

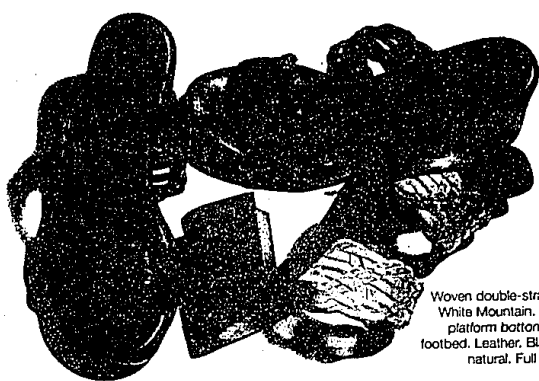
### Grade 7 - Reading

1997-98				1998-97			
School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low	School	% Satisfactory	% Moderate	% Low
East Middle	56.3	28.1	15.6	50.9	31.2	17.9	
O.E. Dunckel	61.0	22.0	17.0	53.1	24.2	19.7	
Power	62.2	24.4	15.3	54.7	24.8	20.6	
Warner	62.3	26.7	11.0	49.5	32.1	18.5	
District	60.3	24.8	14.9	52.9	27.9	19.2	

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## Passing the test

### District's MEAP gains play out at most schools

Farmington Public Schools' across-the-board improvement in the fourth- and seventh-grade portion of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program was spearheaded by double digit increases at several buildings. Lanigan Elementary School enjoyed the biggest increases in the math and reading MEAP tests, given in January to students in fourth and seventh grade. Lanigan students attaining at least a satisfactory level improved by 22.2 and 29.1 percent in math and reading, respectively.

A number of other schools also registered double digit jumps — as high as 29.1 percent — in math and reading portions of the MEAP, given in January to students in fourth and seventh grade. Those included Flanders, Eagle, William Grace, Wooddale and Warner Middle.

Conversely, scores dropped at only three of 14 tested elementary schools. All four middle schools improved on the test.

Exactly what the scores mean won't be known for a while. According to Carolyn Mahalak, the district's assessment and testing coordinator, building-by-building statistics are being reviewed and analyzed for a future report to the school board. But she said it was too early to draw too much from the individual building scores.

"These (scores) are still pretty fresh," Mahalak said Monday. "Certainly (an analysis) will be our next course of action."

One area of the reading test certain to be looked at carefully is the gap, albeit narrowing, between the story (fiction) and more-demanding informational (non-fiction) sections.

At all but one building in the district, students did better on the fiction section than they did on informational passages, which resemble those from Time magazine or The New York Times. Highmeadow Common Campus students scored very high (98 percent) at both.

The bridging of that gap continues a decade-long trend, triggered by what Mahalak said is more emphasis on informational-style reading over the past few years. In 1994 at Hillside, for example, the gap was 30 percent (88 percent, story; 58 percent, informational). This year, 89.7 percent scored satisfactorily in the story section and 76.3 percent did so in the informational.

Contributing to the higher scores — and the reduced gap between both parts of the reading test — is the fact MEAP was given later in the school year, enabling students more time to learn material. The timing change is another reason school officials want to take their time analyzing the results.

Also tested in January were fifth- and eighth-graders, in science and writing. But those results won't return from the state until the end of May or June, Mahalak said. Those take longer to score because answers in the writing portion require more careful scrutiny.

Mahalak said having a MEAP breakdown for individual schools is important.

"What contributes to the state score are the districts," she explained. "And what contributes to the district score are your buildings."

"This helps to put a perspective on where your buildings and district stand. You need to have these breakdowns."

Individual MEAP scores also are considered key selling points for schools attempting to gain North Central Accreditation, something that Mahalak said "lends credibility to the school. It lends recognition. North Central Accreditation is one of the hallmarks of quality schools."

All schools in the district have or soon will have NCA certification, she added.

Meanwhile, the district also is surveying parents of high school juniors, to find out why almost 80 percent of students opted out of the MEAP.

## Jolicoeur gives Moffitt challenge

Unreturned phone calls are, in part, inspiring Linda Jolicoeur's run for the 18th District seat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

On Monday, and ironically by phone, the Farmington Hills businesswoman informed incumbent David L. Moffitt she'd be running against him in the Republican primary Aug. 4. The 18th District includes northern Farmington Hills and part of West Bloomfield.

"I think additional candidates promote public awareness of the issues," said Moffitt, who is a 14-year commission member.

Farmington Hills resident Laine Wine also filed as a Republican in the county race. Ryan Gesund of Farmington Hills will be unopposed on the Democratic side. A county commissioner serves two years and is paid \$25,000 plus benefits.

"I believe there is a mood for change and I believe there is a need for change," said Jolicoeur, who owns Hills-based Target Equipment Leasing.

Jolicoeur, 47, who is vice president in the Farmington Area Republican Club, ran unsuccessfully in the GOP primary for 37th District state representative in 1996.

Jolicoeur's interest in politics stems from her involvement in community mental health issues. Her stepson is developmentally disabled and mentally ill.

Last year, she co-founded the Martin Janet Fund that helps people with developmentally disabilities and mental illness.

She's on the county's Human Services Coordinating Council for Strong Families/SAFE Children, the Workforce Development Board of Oakland County and the Business Roundtable, Education and Workforce Committee.

The active Farmington Chamber of Commerce member received its Athena Award for community service.

When she moved her business from Southfield to Farmington Hills, she said she phoned Moffitt several times but never heard back from the county commissioner.

"I figured no problem. I know a lot of other candidates out there. He doesn't want to call me back, fine. I left it at that," Jolicoeur said. "Last year was the first time I met David Moffitt and I've been in the district several years now."

Moffitt said his record of accessibility speaks for itself, noting that he convened the first-ever televised commissioners' meeting on the Emergency 911 issue. He also said he returns phone calls.

"She called me two days ago and I returned her call," said Moffitt, who is an attorney. "I can't imagine I wouldn't have returned her call five years ago."

Moffitt was recently nominated to serve as chairman of the county Public Services Committee and re-elected to the executive council of Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments.

"I think experience is a key issue in this campaign," Moffitt said. "Neither of my opponents, to the best of my knowledge, have ever held public office. And to live in the fishbowl of public office for 14 years with an honorable record these days speaks for itself."

If elected, Jolicoeur said she would limit herself to two terms.

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