

## POINTS OF VIEW

**Editor's note:** These questions and answers were provided for publication by Marlene Krochmal, co-president of the North Farmington High School Parents Information Network. The network also provided the Farmington Public Schools administration with the same information.

Most frequently asked questions about the MEAP (formerly known as the High School Proficiency Test)

**Q. Is the MEAP a required or mandatory test for all high school juniors?**

**A. No.** It is required for the district to take it. Parents have the right to opt their student out of the exam. Last year, 84 percent of Farmington students were waived out of the test because of parent concerns. A student can be waived out of the entire test or any portion of it. Waiver forms are available in the Guidance Office and must be turned in before the testing date of April 19. Students seeking "dual enrollment" provision for college level classes must successfully complete the MEAP.

**Q. What are the parent concerns?**

**A. ■** Recording of test results goes on the student's official transcript once the test is taken. Many parents feel there are "glitches" in the scoring (the writing portion is subjective and done by "readers"), reliability and validity of the test itself. Legislation has been introduced to give parents the rights to keep

results off of official transcripts but this legislation has NOT been voted on yet and most likely will not be in time to affect this year's juniors.

■ There are too many tests being given already (ACT, SAT and AP exams).

■ The Social Studies Curriculum has not caught up with the test. Current juniors have not taken Government and some have not completed Economics. Both subjects are tested on the MEAP.

**Q. Has anything been done about parent concerns?**

**A. ■** The test time has been shortened from 11 to eight hours.

■ New scoring and reporting methods have been developed.

■ There are expanded state endorsement levels:

1. Exceeds state standards
2. Meets state standards
3. Endorsed at basic level
4. Unendorsed

■ Dr. Robert Maxfield, superintendent of Farmington Schools, has joined the superintendents of school districts in the tri-county area in urging the governor, legislators and the State Board of Education to enact a variety of MEAP modifications which have been suggested by parents and educators, but all suggestions have not yet become a reality.

**Q. What are the results of this exam used for?**

**A. The results will provide schools**

and the district with data for use in addressing curricular and school improvement issues and to compare us with other districts.

**Q. How are the results recorded?**

**A. Results are recorded on the student's permanent transcript. The subjects listed are Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies and Writing. As of now, the district is saying the subjects will appear on the transcript with the scaled score. The word "endorsed," with a "Y" for yes or "N" for no, will appear. If a child is opted out, no score or endorsement will appear. No mention will be made of why the test was not taken.**

**Q. Can these results be left off the official transcript?**

**A. No.** As of now, a parent does not have the right to delete this information once the test is taken. There has been legislation introduced by Rep. Andrew Raczkowski and Sen. Bill Bullard giving the parent this right, but it has NOT been passed yet and probably will not be in time to affect this year's juniors.

**Q. Will exempting my student from the exam affect state funding for our public schools?**

**A. No.**

**Q. Will MEAP results affect my**

child's college eligibility?

**A. As of now, there are no plans for colleges to use this assessment as a basis for entry. Results may or may not be back to the district in time to put on a student's transcript if they apply to college at the beginning of their senior year, but they will be put on their official final transcript and colleges do require a final transcript be sent to them.**

**Q. If I opt my child out in his/her junior year, can he or she take the exam in the retake period in the senior year?**

**A. Yes.**

**Q. What is the Michigan Merit Award Program and its connection to MEAP?**

**A. Gov. John Engler has proposed a one-time, \$2,500 reward to be used at Michigan colleges for students passing in the top two endorsement categories. This money is supposed to come from a tobacco settlement that the state has not yet received. The proposal has not yet been voted on and may not affect this year's juniors.**

**Q. If my child takes the test in the senior retake period, will he/she be eligible for the Merit Award if it passes into law?**

**A. Raczkowski said the proposal would allow for this but emphasized the Merit Award is only a proposal.**

**Q. A draft of the Michigan Merit program said high scoring ACT and SAT scores might count for eligibility for the Merit Award. What does this mean?**

**A. Raczkowski introduced this idea. It has not been brought up for discussion.**

**Q. What will my student be doing in school during testing time if I opt him/her out?**

**A. Contact your individual school for this information.**

This information is intended to help you in making an informed decision on this issue. Further questions can be directed to your child's high school counselor.

## Officers named for homeowners council

At the general meeting of COHA in March, the following officers were elected for the years 1999/2000 to the Board of Directors:

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**First V.P.** — Ed Spring Jr., Springland/Lamers Association

**Second V.P.** — Marcia Van

Crovel Heritage Hills Association

**Secretary** — Dick Steiger, Ramble Hills Association

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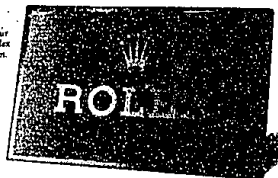
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