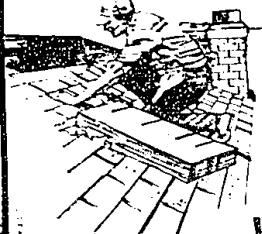


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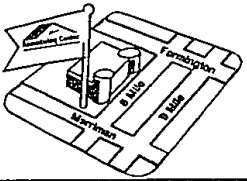
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## Schools urged to boost scores

By MARIE CHRISTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

### CLARENCEVILLE

No Clarenceville school received the highest accreditation rating last week from the Michigan Department of Education. Mostly because of test scores, the state gave schools in the Clarenceville School District a rating that's midway between schools at the top (summary) and schools at the bottom (unaccredited). All local schools met some but not all of the state's standards. Local schools joined the bulk of state schools, about 3,000, which earned interim accreditation. It's their task in the year ahead to boost their Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) scores high enough to climb into the top category.

"It's got to be done; there's no if, ands or buts about it," said Clarenceville Superintendent David Kamish.

No local school suffered the ignominy of being among the 89 schools statewide which wound up unaccredited at the bottom of the list. These 89 schools face a 6 percent loss of state aid if they don't improve.

But no local school gets to bask in the limelight which comes from being listed among Michigan's top-ranked schools in the first list ever published.

Accreditation for all Michigan public schools is one of the many

mandates the state has decreed to boost the quality of education in the state.

Accreditation is based chiefly on scores earned on the MEAP math, science and reading tests. But it also includes compliance with numerous dictates from the state. These include annual performance reports to parents, school improvement plans and mission statements.

To earn the top ranking, 66 percent of students in the school must pass the MEAP exams in all subjects in at least two of the last three years.

In getting interim accreditation, the 80 percent of schools either met or exceeded the 66 percent standard on some of the MEAP tests and fell below that level on others.

## Schools from page 1A

according to a spokeswoman in the state assessment office.

Highmeadow Common Campus' MEAP scores were well above the 66-percent standard. Highmeadow was selected as a national exemplary blue ribbon

ress all schools have made. That concerns me."

Colliton and other school officials said they would like to see a more comprehensive effort, simi-

lar to the North Central Accreditation process. NCA involves visits during the school year.

"This is more a pencil and paper process," Colliton said.

"I think it was a wonderful reaffirmation for the staff and the parents who work so hard there."

Arlene Johnson  
Hillside parent

school last year. Principal Jan Colliton was more excited about the previous year's honor than the recent state accolade.

"This accreditation is pretty much based on test scores," Colliton said. "A school is much more than test scores. ... It doesn't show the prog-

### CARRIER OF THE MONTH: FARMINGTON

Scott, 14, delivers the Observer in Farmington Hills. He has been delivering the Observer since May, 1991.

The East Middle School eighth grader's favorite subject is science. His hobbies are hockey and truck. Scott plans to go to college.

The ability to earn money and deal with people are some of the things he has learned on his route. It has taught him responsibility.

Scott is the son of Greg and Judy Cichosz.



Scott Cichosz

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(men & ladies teams of 3 bats each other)  
• Wed. Seniors Mixed 12:30 p.m.  
Youth Scholarship 7:00 p.m.  
• Thurs. Parent Youth 7:30 p.m.  
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