

Farmington MEAP Results

11TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

GROUP	ENDORSED				TOTAL STUDENTS
	LEVEL 2 EXCEEDED STANDARDS	LEVEL 3 MET STANDARDS	LEVEL 4 (SAC LEVEL)	LEVEL 5 (SAC LEVEL)	
Farmington H.S.	3.6%	56.0%	29.8%	10.7%	84
District	3.2%	47.5%	29.7%	19.6%	1,760
State	0.5%	23.2%	34.4%	35.9%	178,987

Source: Farmington School District

The test scores revealed a disparity between Farmington High and the other high schools.

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Inquiry and decision making was the category in which students struggled the most. Scores ranged from a low of 4.7 (out of 12) at North to 5.6 at Farmington.

For the latter, students were asked to "take a position and support it, with the data provided," Gekiere explained. "And that's one of the things we're working on at the elementary (school) level. It's a different way of writing."

Meanwhile, the test scores revealed a disparity between Farmington High and the other high schools, with 59.6 percent of FHS juniors reaching Level 1 or 2, the top two levels of endorsement.

The percentage of students reaching the top levels were 41.4 percent and 39.4 percent at Harrison and North, respectively.

But, emphasized Gekiere, the numbers at Harrison and North could be skewed because fewer students took the test than at

FHS.

More took the test at Farmington High (84) than at Harrison (41) and North (33) combined.

Farmington High School Principal John Barrett was proud of his students for performing well on the test. But, he too was cautious in his optimism.

"That's a variable you have no control over, who's taking the test," Barrett said. "But until we have a large number of students taking the test we're not going to have a true picture of students' abilities."

Gekiere noted that the high school MEAP test is only just a "snapshot in time. What we have to do is align our curriculum with the objectives of the state and what's being tested."

"It's always a moving target," she said.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Efforts to improve communication with parents also are being counted on for increasing student participation this spring.

Monday, the PTA sponsored an informational meeting, but Gekiere said that was geared more toward elementary and middle school parents.

Among Oakland County districts, Farmington was topped only by Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, with 75.4 and 53.2 percent of juniors reaching the top two categories, respectively.

The Northville and Grosse Pointe districts in Wayne County also posted better numbers.

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Safe from page A1

80,000 residents, Conn said, that's just not enough.

"I'm fortunate, because I'm at home with my kids," she commented. "But I know there are other parents at home. It would be nice if they could have an eye in their window, too."

It doesn't take much, really. Training sessions are only about an hour long. Participants learn how to more clearly identify criminal suspects or suspect vehicles, so they can give police a better description.

In addition, everyone 17 or older in the household undergoes a criminal background check before being issued a sign. The laminated placards must be turned in when a volunteer moves or quits the program for other reasons.

"One adult has to be trained to identify and report suspicious activity," said Hills police officer Bonnie Urruh, who is coordinating the program. "All signs are numbered, and it is a misdemeanor to have possession of a sign unless that person's home has been approved."

In addition, the department conducts an audit every year to make sure signs are properly displayed.

Urruh said Police Chief Bill Dwyer has been looking for a replacement program since police agencies were told they couldn't obtain criminal histories on people displaying the "Helping Hands" signs. Because the program was sponsored by the PTA, state officials had concerns over whether criminal background information would end up in the wrong hands, she explained.

Dwyer chose Child Watch,

'One adult has to be trained to identify and report suspicious activity.'

Bonnie Urruh
—Hills police officer

because it provides for more training. What the program needs now is more volunteers.

"The more the better," Urruh said. "That way, if a child is in trouble, they know that person will help."

Hills officers will visit all the schools to explain the program to children. Fliers will be distributed to all schools in the coming weeks, giving parents a chance to sign up for training or act as a liaison between the school and police department.

Conn stressed any adult who can offer a safe haven may fill out an application. She especially encourages senior citizens — who are home during the day and are often observant of neighborhood activities — to sign up.

Child Watch is an extension of Neighborhood Watch programs, common in the Farmington area. The point is to be observant and aware, to prevent crime.

"I'm not nosy, but I do know when people aren't supposed to be here," Conn said. "They tell you to keep the sign up all the time, even when we're gone, because when burglars see it, they'll stay away."

The next training session for Child Watch volunteers will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8. For details, call 473-9632.

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- Feb. 5 - Jonathan Park, comedy juggling.
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