



# *News Release*

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## **Home-Schooled Students Have Opportunity to Take Michigan Merit Examination, Obtain Free ACT Scores**

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LANSING – Home-schooled students in Michigan this coming spring will be able to take the Michigan Merit Exam, the state’s new high school assessment that includes the national ACT college entrance exam.

If approved by the U.S. Department of Education, the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) will be administered statewide to all high school juniors. A state law enacted last year replaced the high school Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test with the Merit Exam. The U.S. Department of Education must approve the new assessment in order for it to be recognized in the accountability system required by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Students who are home-schooled also have the opportunity to participate in the MME – and in this way, obtain ACT scores that can be used for college admissions.

Students who attend public schools, private schools, or are home-schooled can participate at no cost to them. The state will pay the cost of the initial MME administration in Spring 2007, as well as one re-take in the fall or spring of their senior year. Students who pass the MME qualify for the Michigan Merit Award that provides funds that students can use to pursue educational opportunities after high school.

The schedule for MME testing is as follows:

Initial Testing Dates

- March 13 – ACT Plus Writing test
- March 14 – WorkKeys and Michigan mathematics tests
- March 14-16\* – Michigan science and social studies tests

Makeup Testing Dates (for students unable to participate in one or more parts of the initial testing sessions)

- March 27 – ACT Plus Writing test
- March 28 – WorkKeys and Michigan mathematics tests
- March 28-30\* – Michigan science and social studies tests

(more)

\*Note: Each high school will schedule a single test session on one-half day within the date range shown for these tests. Students should check with the local public high school to determine which day and time the high school has selected.

Home-schooled students who are juniors need to take several steps in order to participate in the MME next spring. These steps include:

- Identify themselves to their local public high school as a home-schooled student who wants to participate in the MME. Students will take the MME in the local public high school where they reside.
- Participate in assessment activities required of all students, including:
  - Apply for assessment accommodations (students with a disability, a Section 504 plan, or English language learners). Information about the available accommodations, the process of requesting an accommodation, and the forms to be used can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme).
  - Fill out the student information sections of the MME answer documents prior to the assessment dates. The local public high school will be able to tell students when this will occur or by when the student will need to have completed this step.
  - Contact the local public high school Test Supervisor to determine what dates and times students are to report for the three sessions of the MME test administration. Home-schooled students must test during these scheduled times.
  - Go to the local public high school on the designated dates and times with proper identification.
  - Participate in all three test sessions as the local public high school has scheduled them.
- Students who participate in Spring 2007 can register for a re-take of the ACT in Fall 2007. The re-take in the fall will be on the national ACT administration date scheduled for the last Saturday of October 2007. More information will be posted as this date draws nearer.

The Michigan Merit Examination was adopted by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as part of a broader effort to improve the skill level of Michigan's high school graduates and help build greater post-secondary success.

For more information on this opportunity or the MME, please contact (517) 373-8393 or [mme@michigan.gov](mailto:mme@michigan.gov).

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