



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

January 20, 2016

Dear Education Committee Members:

As many of you know, the 2014-2015 school year marked a transition from the 44-year-old MEAP test to the new Michigan Student Test for Educational Progress (M-STEP). In this transition year, there were a number of factors that caused the final results reporting to be significantly delayed. While we were able to return preliminary reports to schools and districts within two weeks of the close of the Spring testing window, the final reports were not completed until December. This timeline is not acceptable to any of us. We look forward to discussing with you our plans for dramatically improving these reporting timelines in the 2015-2016 administration of the M-STEP.

Given the significant delays and the impact this had on our districts and schools, we requested a financial redirection from the state's contractor, Measurement Incorporated. Measurement Incorporated will be reinvesting the portion of the contract that was focused on the production of final reports into procuring additional technology resources for Michigan districts. The amount of this financial redirect is approximately \$420,000. The Michigan Department of Education is working with the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) team, our standing technology readiness committee, to identify the best use of those funds in support of districts for the coming M-STEP administration.

Additionally, the MDE is restructuring the contract with Measurement Incorporated to attach financial consequences for missed deliverables throughout the course of the reporting year, in order to avoid this situation occurring again.

We look forward to speaking with you further regarding our plans for improving the delivery of assessment results to students, parents, schools and districts from the 2015-2016 M-STEP, and appreciate your partnership in these efforts.

Respectfully,

Brian J. Whiston
State Superintendent

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