



Contact: Kathryn Dewsbury-White
kdwhite@michiganassessmentconsortium.org
517.816.4520

For Immediate Release

Michigan State Board of Education Endorses Assessment Literacy Standards

Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) spearheaded the development of "[Assessment Literacy Standards](#)," to increase Assessment "Literacy," by teachers and administrators, and students who implement assessment of and for learning; and for the policy-makers who influence assessment policy.

Lansing, MI—At its May 10, 2016 meeting, the Michigan State Board of Education (SBE) endorsed MAC developed, Assessment Literacy Standards. The standards were developed to serve as the foundation to improve assessment practices and systems in the state of Michigan. These standards underwent extensive review by national assessment experts as well as Michigan education associations.

The research-based Standards were developed collaboratively by a team of Michigan educators and assessment specialists, who hope to use the standards to inform assessment practices in schools, as well as influence policy development and decisions regarding investment in educators and the resources available to them.

"Student assessment has become increasingly important to educators, students and their parents Or guardians, and the public." said Kathryn-Dewsbury White, president for the Michigan Assessment Consortium—the organization that created the Assessment Literacy Standards. "We need a system of public assurance that measures the impact of schooling AND strengthens both classroom learning and the schools that provide it."

The Standards have received positive reviews from both state and national experts, who agree that they position Michigan to increase the knowledge and practice of educational professionals so that their assessment practice and systems are of quality and benefit students.

These Assessment Literacy Standards represent a huge step forward, they embody the best research available and if put to use will significantly impact student learning in Michigan, said Andrew Middlestead, director of the Office of Standards & Assessment, Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

"The MAC Assessment Literacy Standards have triggered a national movement promoting higher levels of educator competence in assessment for the sake of students' academic well-being and overall school effectiveness." Rick Stiggins, Founder of the Assessment Training Institute.

The SBE endorsement follows the MAC's September recommendations to State Superintendent Brian Whiston for [Developing Michigan Into a Top 10 Education Performing State Over the Next Ten Years](#). It

represents just one facet of the MAC's current efforts to raise awareness among education groups about the Assessment Literacy Standards and their power to create shared understanding about how various types of educational assessments are developed, and for what purposes and how to use the information to benefit students and schools.

MAC members are also engaged in a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to improve the assessment literacy of students, teachers, building administrators, district administrators, and local and statewide policy makers. Through targeted professional development activities, the MAC intends to make Michigan an "Assessment Literacy State" that leads the nation in student achievement and universal high quality assessment practices.

Michigan Assessment Consortium, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to improve student learning and achievement through a system of coherent curriculum, balanced assessment and effective instruction. They do this by collaboratively: 1) Promoting assessment knowledge and practice, 2) Providing professional development, and 3) Providing and sharing assessment tools and products. The MAC is supported through a combination of in-kind services, grants, and membership.

– END –