



High achievement by all students,  
where learning is our most important work

January 5, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Farmington Public Schools recently received our district and individual student results from the State of Michigan's new standardized assessment, M-STEP, which students took for the first time in the spring of 2015. The schools are currently organizing parent reports that include students' scores for mail distribution. Parent reports will begin to be mailed out on January 11, 2016, and parents can expect to receive their student's results shortly after.

It is important to understand that the 2015 administration of the M-STEP was the first of its kind in our state. The assessment was aligned to the Common Core State Standards that were approved by the Michigan Department of Education in 2010. The M-STEP, which is a Michigan developed assessment, assessed students' proficiency with the standards set forth by the CCSS. Thus, the questions on the M-STEP represent more rigorous question types designed to assess deeper levels of content understanding rather than rote memorization.

The educators in our district will analyze the aggregate, individual, and demographic results to identify areas of curricular and instructional strengths, establish district powerful practices to increase student learning, and develop appropriate interventions to meet the learning needs of students. Furthermore, we will use student data to continue to align our district curriculum to the CCSS. Please keep in mind that the M-STEP only represents one data point and that our district uses the results from multiple assessments to get an accurate picture of how our students perform against state and national standards. We believe that this practice allows us to establish a system of checks and balances to ensure that we engage in the most appropriate instructional practices for our students.

Lastly, our teaching staff, building administrators, and instructional support personnel frequently engage in professional development that enables us to implement evidence-based instructional practices that focus on deeper levels of student and teacher inquiry, frequent formative assessments, and relationship building. As a district, we will continue to focus on helping your students learn in equitable and safe environments. If you have any questions regarding your child's M-STEP results, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron M. Johnson".

Aaron M. Johnson  
Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

## Instructional Services

32500 Shiawassee Street  
Farmington, MI 48336

Phone: 248.489.3327  
Fax: 248.324.5743

E-mail: [aaron.johnson@farmington.k12.mi.us](mailto:aaron.johnson@farmington.k12.mi.us)  
[www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us)