

IN THIS ISSUE

Performance Series
Enhancements

Obtaining Average Gains
for Performance Series

EXPLORE and PLAN
Administration Meetings

MEAP and MME
Information

Performance Series Enhancements

Scantron® has created several enhancements for the Performance Series® assessments designed to assist with the transition to Common Core State Standards and improve data analysis opportunities.

- A new **Curriculum Alignment Guide ("CAG")** has been developed to assist academies with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards ("CCSS"). The skills assessed on the Performance Series assessments have been identified with a CCSS where applicable. With the addition of the new CAG, Class Profile Reports and Individual Student Reports will include a reference number for the CCSS and the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) in a side-by-side format. These reports will provide not only the teacher, but also administrators and parents, with clear, connected reports that demonstrate the linkage between the CCSS and Michigan expectations. You can access the new CAG on the Performance Series website by following these steps:
 1. Select "Help"
 2. Select "Search"
 3. Type "SLO" (for Suggested Learning Objectives)
 4. Scroll down to #21 and select "Curriculum Alignment Guide: Central Michigan University"
 5. The math, reading and language arts CAGs appear to the right side of the screen
- **Students' scale scores** now appear on students' screens upon completion of each test.
- **The Unit Scale Range (USR)** has replaced the Sub-Unit Standard Item Pool (SIP) scores. The overall SIP has not changed, only the sub-unit SIP scores which were commonly misunderstood. The new USRs are more helpful as they are calculated from the responses to the actual questions seen by a student during an individual assessment. USRs are reported with Standard Error of Measures, similar to the scale score. To determine a significant strength or weakness, the USR **must not numerically overlap** with other USRs. Please see the PowerPoint slides included with this newsletter for more information on the new USR metric.
- A new staff position, **Location Controller Staff (LCS)**, is now available. The LCS has all the same permissions as a standard Location Controller (LC), except delete. The new LCS position provides the ability to distribute system tasks and share the workload of the Location Controller and still maintain control over the deletion of data.

Obtaining Average Gains for Performance Series

Upon completion of the fall test window, academies can begin to set goals and targets for students, classes and the academy. A thorough and careful data analysis can provide the academy with the information needed to effectively set targets and plan instruction accordingly.

Below is a method to calculate minimal expected gains for students from fall to winter, which can be utilized by any staff member with access to the students' scores. This method employs Scantron's observed average gains from the most current national norm study. Average gains can be used in conjunction with Central Michigan University's College Readiness Benchmarks to set gains' goals for this school year.

- Use the Standard Error of Measure (SEM) to establish confidence intervals around the scaled scores.
- Keep in mind that scaled scores are a reliable *estimate* of student achievement.
- Additionally, it is important to note that these gains are *average* and, if students are well below grade level, average gains may not be enough to ensure that your students are on track to *academically prepare them for college, work and life*.

VISION STATEMENT

"The Center for Charter Schools envisions a diverse and dynamic public education marketplace that fosters academic excellence for all children."



The Observed Average (Mean) Gains document is attached and can also be found under the documents tab on the EdPerformance website.

To obtain average gain from fall to winter based on the Observed Average (Mean) Gains charts:

1. Obtain a class or grade average *or* individual student's **fall** scaled score along with the correlating National Percentile Ranking
2. Using the Observed Average (Mean) Gains charts, locate the correct grade level and subject for the student, class or grade and determine which quartile the scaled score falls within.
 - a. The first quartile represents students whose score falls between 1-25 on the National Percentile Ranking system. Accordingly:
 - i. Quartile 1 = 1 - 25 NPR Quartile
 - ii. Quartile 2 = 26 - 50 NPR Quartile
 - iii. Quartile 3 = 51 - 75 NPR Quartile
 - iv. Quartile 4 = 76 - 99 NPR Quartile
3. Locate the column titled "Obs. Overall Gain in Spring" which provides the average gain for students whose scores fall within that quartile.
4. Divide the average gain from fall to spring by 2, to obtain the average expected gain for the winter test window.

The simplicity of this process allows you to focus on what is most important - using the data to inform instruction and make informed decisions about your students, school, educational program, curriculum, and school improvement plan.

EXPLORE AND PLAN Test Administration Meetings

The Center for Charter Schools will conduct informational meetings to discuss the administration of the EXPLORE® and PLAN® tests, which together comprise the first two parts of the ACT® Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS®). During these meetings, the Center will share the ACT requirements and best practices for administering the assessments.

The EPAS test administration meetings will be held on Thursday, November 10th. Academies administering EPAS for the first time and new assessment coordinators **are required** to attend. New administrators are highly encouraged to attend. Please plan to send 1-3 staff members to one of these meetings.

1) Thursday, November 10th | 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

CMU Southfield Center
26555 Evergreen Road, Traveler's Tower Classroom C
Southfield 48076

2) Thursday, November 10th | 1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

CMU East Lansing Center
2900 West Road, Suite 301, Classroom D
East Lansing 48823

Please RSVP by emailing the names and job titles of attendees, and location and time of the session each staff member will attend, on or before **November 3, 2011** to sbetcher@thecenterforcharters.org.

VISION STATEMENT

"The Center for Charter Schools envisions a diverse and dynamic public education marketplace that fosters academic excellence for all children."



MEAP and MME Information

In past Assessment Newsletters the Center shared with academies MEAP™ and MME™ information received from the MDE. This information is most useful when it comes directly from the MDE. The Academy can be certain that the information is as timely and complete when it receives the MDE's newsletter directly. The best way to receive this information is via the MDE's listserves.

To sign up for the MEAP listserv go to;

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_28463-245583--,00.html

and for the MME go here;

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_35150-168942--,00.html

There are also specific listserves for MI-Access, MEAP-Access, ELPA as well as other MDE departments. A page to look for the information most relevant to the academy is here;

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709---,00.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Sherry

Sherry Betcher
Assessment Coordinator
The Center for Charter Schools
Central Michigan University
www.TheCenterForCharters.org
Telephone (586) 215-1402

If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter please email Sherry Betcher at sbetcher@thecenterforcharters.org

VISION STATEMENT

"The Center for Charter Schools envisions a diverse and dynamic public education marketplace that fosters academic excellence for all children."