

Local districts show MEAP improvement, consistency

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**CLINTON TOWNSHIP/
FRASER** — Statewide, students are continuing to excel in math for the fourth consecutive year, according to www.candgnews.com

to fall 2008 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test results that were released earlier this month.

In school districts in the *Fraser-Clinton Chronicle* coverage area, most students reflected the

statewide trend. Overall, in comparison to the previous year's scores, Chippewa Valley, Fraser, L'Anse Creuse and Clintondale students' scores improved.

Third- through eighth-graders were tested in math, reading, writing and English language arts

(ELA). Fifth- and eighth-graders were tested in science, and sixth-graders were tested in social studies, in addition to the four other categories. Ninth-graders are only tested in social studies.

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MEAP

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Students were tested last October on the skills they'd learned up until the previous year, according to the Michigan Department of Education. Results showed more than 75 percent of the students tested last fall had either met or exceeded standards in math, including 91 percent of third-graders.

Results showed that Michigan seventh-graders had improved the most, with 83 percent either meeting or exceeding state standards, up 10 percentage points from 2007-08 test results.

"There is a direct connection between our kids learning more in the classroom and getting the jobs we need in Michigan's economy," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm in a statement for the MDE. "We are glad to see these signs of success, but we know we have a lot of work to do to give Michigan the best educated workforce in the nation, and that must be our goal."

Ron Roberts, Chippewa Valley's assistant superintendent of educational services, said the district's fourth-grade writing was the only area that didn't meet or exceed student averages throughout Macomb County and the state of Michigan for 2008-09.

"Our students made a Spartan effort," he said.

Roberts added that the district is in the process of piloting a writing program to help improve scores the next time students are tested.

Scores for third- through eighth-grade Chippewa Valley students that tested in the MEAP last fall showed improvement all around. Ninth-graders also showed improvement in social studies testing.

Students in Fraser Public Schools also fared well.

"Fraser is proud, once again, of our terrific MEAP scores," said Fraser Public Schools Superintendent Rick Repicky. "We see ourselves as one of the top MEAP districts in the county."

Repicky said the results from 2008-09 show that the district improved over last year's scores in 63 percent of the tests, and was ranked first in the county in 26 percent of the areas tested.

"Looking deeper, Fraser was a top two district on 50 percent of the MEAP tests, and we finished in the top five scores on 75 percent," Repicky said. "It's amazing that our students, teachers, administrators and parents are still able to significantly improve each year."

In the L'Anse Creuse district, scores showed the district at right about the same, if not a little above, scoring from the previous year, said Lisa McFee, L'Anse Creuse's director of academic accountability.

She said third-graders' scores had gone down a point in math and up a point in reading. Fifth-graders scores were up all across the board, and the district's ELA scores, which is what the state looks at, were up overall.

"In general, I think our scores were pretty consistent," McFee said. "They were fairly good to begin with, but we're pretty

pleased with the results."

She said middle school scoring has consistently remained strong and the district is working to keep it that way.

Clintondale Community Schools scores didn't follow a definite trend. Some grade levels saw decreases in their scores, while others celebrated increases.

Parker Elementary School Principal Karen Hessler, a spokesperson for the district, said she was particularly pleased with the reading scores at the elementary level, which were all above the county's average.

Sixth- and eighth-grade students' scores were below the county average in every area tested. Clintondale seventh-graders saw an increase in their scores in every area, which including a 15 percentage point increase in reading scores.

Ninth-graders' social studies scores dipped in 2008, with less than 50 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards.

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Spotlight

Newly Opened

"We built this center around explained co-owner Dan Wade. "So my customer's first thought is confusion when they place. There are so many doors, different where do they go? We made this center