



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
June/July 2002

District Budget Planner for the 2003 Iowa Tests

- Estimate the total number of students in grades 4, 8, and 11 for the fall enrollment count.
- Calculate approximately \$6 per student for the test.
 - o This price includes extra test booklets (when needed), answer documents, scoring services, the same reports you received in 2001 and 2002, and Riverside and Office of Public Instruction training and support.
- The Office of Public Instruction will bill you after the fall enrollment count.
- Payment is due by March 1, 2003.

Iowa Tests Statewide Analysis Online

At the May 16 Board of Public Education meeting, an in depth report on state results of the 2001 Iowa Tests was presented. A shortened version of that report is online at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html#analysis>

Summer JUMP Assessment Newsletters

JUMP will resume August 26.



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End of School Year Popular for Iowa Test Results

Thanks to test coordinators for quick responses to a June 4 email question about when Iowa Test results are sent home. Many respondents sent the results home with the end of the year report cards. Here are some highlights from around the state:

- “We sent the Iowa test results home with our juniors several weeks ago. I visit with the juniors and go over the results with the students in a classroom situation and then have the students take the results home to their parent(s).”
- “We sent our test scores home two weeks ago. We also had a public meeting a week later to explain the test scores and/or answer any questions.”
- “We sent our test results home the third week of May. That was about a week after they came in. We wanted parents to have info so they could call with questions before school was out.”
- “We sent them with the mid-term progress reports for final semester.”
- “We made the results available to parents by appointment when the reports arrived.”
- “We are sending them home with final report cards. We did get them early enough that we could have sent them home with mid-terms for grades 8 and 11. We didn’t because we wanted a little time to digest our results before we sent data home to parents in case there were questions.”

Criterion-Referenced Test Plans Begin

The contract with Measured Progress provides a test aligned with Montana standards, and currently an independent alignment study is being conducted. Once it is complete, standards that need items will be identified, and Montana educators will participate in writing and reviewing items. Two sessions will be presented for those purposes. Measured Progress and the Office of Public Instruction will contact districts to arrange for participation of educators in reading and math at the different grade levels. The schedule and descriptions follow:

<p><i>Item Writing Workshops</i> September 24-26 Helena</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review performance level descriptors • Select reading passages • Develop multiple choice and constructed response items • Develop and review graphics
<p><i>Item Review Meetings</i> November 4-5 Billings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure item quality and alignment • Revise and edit items to assure alignment with committee members' interpretation of the standards and grade level appropriateness

The **item writing workshops** (September 24-26 in Helena) will produce items original to the MontCAS Phase 2 assessment and developed by educators who are familiar with Montana students and curriculum.

- Training session on performance level descriptors and writing multiple-choice and constructed-response items, led jointly by OPI and Measured Progress.
- Development of items that reflect the Montana curriculum.

A **two-day item review meeting** will be held November 4-5 in Billings to review items prior to the spring pilot test. At the item review meeting, the committee will select one of three options for each item.

1. Accept item as is and use in pilot.
2. Revise item and use in pilot.
3. Reject item and do not use in pilot.

Every effort will be made to ensure that this is a successful experience for all participants. Measured Progress will provide for travel, accommodations, meals, and substitute teacher expenses (when applicable) for all participants.

Student Mathematics Proficiency Manual Ready for Use

The Office of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Higher Education announce the completion of the Mathematics Proficiency Manual, a 46-page booklet providing clear information about the skills necessary to be considered proficient in mathematics and prepared to enter college without the need for remediation.

The Manual will be mailed to high school counselors and mathematics departments by mid-August and is available on the Mathematics Proficiency Website:

<http://www.montana.edu/mus/mathproficiency/index.htm>

Email: jclinard@oche.montana.edu if you have questions.

2002 Iowa Test Results

Statewide aggregated data will be online after the July Board of Public Education meeting:

www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html

State, district, and school disaggregated data will be online after the September Board of Public Education meeting: www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html

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