



August 29 2016

Dear Parent,

Thank you for allowing Charlotte Public Schools to be part of your child's education.

I am writing to let you know that you will soon be receiving the results of your child's performance on the Spring 2016 M-STEP, Michigan's new statewide exam.

This year's M-STEP assessments featured some key enhancements that likely improved your child's testing experience ... and could even lead to more precise measures of learning.

- Total testing time was reduced by 2.5 – 8 hours for most students (depending on grade)
- Testing schedules were more flexible, preserving more instructional time
- Schools received student results more quickly, with preliminary results available as soon as 36 hours after all subject area tests were completed! This helps teachers and schools make faster adjustments to instruction and programs to support student learning.
- M-STEP incorporated computer adaptive testing (CAT), which provides a more personalized test experience for students and improved test security, as well as more precise measures of learning for schools.

This year's test scores on the challenging M-STEP are overall improved from last year, and district leaders will be studying these results to discover where we are having success, and where we see areas in which to improve. The test results also will reveal which groups of students are doing well, and which will need more or different kinds of support.

Here's some good news about the 2016 M-STEP:

- Teachers and parents now can work together to identify where students excel and where they need additional help, and find ways to better support students.
- As we learn more about our school's results, we can make decisions that will help improve instruction. Over time, each Charlotte Public School graduate will be stronger and better prepared to succeed in the next grade and after high school, in college or post-secondary training, career, and life.
- No matter whether your student's scores improved or declined compared to last year, students won't be affected in a bad way. The scores will be used, as they always have been, to help improve our programs and our schools.

Please let me know if you have questions about the Spring 2016 M-STEP, Michigan's learning standards, or your child's progress overall. Additional information can be found on our District website www.charlottenet.org under the Curriculum and Instruction webpage. I look forward to helping your child continue toward the best possible start in life.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Grant-Ball,

Director of Curriculum and Instruction