



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 26, 2015**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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### **Student Assessment Results Released to Charlotte Public Schools' Families**



Statewide aggregate scores for the 2014-2015 statewide assessment, known as the M-STEP, are expected to be released from the Michigan Department of Education this week. These scores will reflect both a new type of assessment and a major transition to more rigorous standards. Though individual level scores are not available for any district

in Michigan yet, it is possible that the results may be generally lower than in past years when Charlotte Public Schools students took the MEAP test.

According to Eileen Grant-Ball, CPS Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the next few years will require significant transitions for students, families and educators, as the adjustment to higher standards and the M-STEP continues. Expectations are higher, tests are challenging and even the way the tests are taken – online – is new to most of our students. Results from last year will set a new baseline for measuring student progress on this challenging test. These results are important for understanding student learning moving forward. Unlike the MEAP tests, which was a multiple-choice bubble sheet test, M-STEP looks for short and long written responses. Students are required to demonstrate critical thinking, deeper understanding, and problem solving skills. As a result, the test is challenging for most students.

Across Michigan, districts are facing the same challenges as CPS. The next few years will require significant transitions for students, families and educators. It is important to set high expectations for our students; our teachers are working every day to help them meet and exceed those expectations. These kinds of changes – to more rigorous standards and challenging tests – take time. We appreciate parents being our partners in making sure that our students are getting the tools and support they need to be successful, in and out of school.