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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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CPS Students Prepare for M-STEP

In order to measure student academic progress, this spring Charlotte Public School students in Grades 3-8 will be taking the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). M-STEP will be given online and is aligned to learning standards identified by the Michigan's State Board of Education and measures students' knowledge in the core content areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. M-STEP 2017 features fewer multiple choice questions and more problem solving and critical thinking. Other features are Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) for ELA and math, which provides a more individualized test experience for students which will determine more precise measurements of individual student learning and increased efficiency of the testing time: it will take less than 1% of instructional time annually. The Michigan Department of Education states that "preliminary" results will be available to our school within a few days of testing with "final" results available to each school building before the start of the standard school year calendar. Parents will also be given their child (ren)'s results at the start of the next school year.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) for ELA and mathematics will be given to our students in grades 9 and 10. The PSAT also prepares students to take the college entrance exam - the Scholastic Aptitude Test commonly referred to as the SAT.

The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) comprises a suite of tests for students in grade 11. The MME for 11th grade students includes three assessment components; M-STEP (science and social studies), SAT with Essay (measures student knowledge of state standards in ELA and mathematics), and ACT WorkKeys (which measures work skills).

State assessments are required under both state and federal law to ensure that all children are learning and receiving a high-quality education in each subject and grade level in order to be ready for the next stage of learning. These assessments measure student progress with Michigan's content standards or other career- or college-readiness goals. The tests are "summative," meaning they measure what students are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels and in specific content areas. Test results provide Charlotte Public Schools with important information about student achievement at both the district, building, and teacher levels and as compared to student achievement within other communities, states, and nations. Results will help Charlotte Public Schools determine curriculum

planning and school improvement initiatives. Parents will be able to have information about how their child is progressing academically.

For more information on how students can prepare for these tests and what parents can do to help their child(ren) understand and prepare for the assessments, please visit the Curriculum and Instruction Department's webpage on the Charlotte Public Schools website, www.charlottenet.org or on the M-STEP web page at www.michigan.gov/mstep.