

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MARY LOU MCGRATH
Superintendent of Schools

159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141
(617) 349-6494

December 23, 1992

1992 DEC 28 AM 9:29
CAMBRIDGE, MA

To: Robert Healy

From: Mary Lou McGrath

Subject: City Council Order #16
12/14/92

In response to City Council Order #16 dated 12/14/92, I have enclosed a copy of School Committee Notification N92-152 sent to our members on December 1st, regarding the results of the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Tests.

Please share this notification with City Council members.

As always, thank you for your constant cooperation in school department matters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lou McGrath".

Mary Lou McGrath,
Superintendent of Schools

CC: City Clerk



MARY LOU MCGRATH
Superintendent of Schools

159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141
(617) 349-6494

December 1, 1992

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

RESULTS: MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT TESTS

Please be advised that we have received the results of the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests that were administered to our students in grades 4, 8 and 12 in April, 1992. The major goals of this testing program are:

- 1) to provide comparison of performance at school district state and national levels and
- 2) to improve curriculum and instruction.

MEASUREMENTS OF PROFICIENCY

Proficiency levels describe how well students have been trained to analyze, evaluate and extend the material presented. Although proficiency levels were described in the 1990 Assessment, this is the first year that proficiency levels have been emphasized over scaled scores because proficiency levels yield more useful information and they provide clearer implications for instruction than do scaled scores. Although scaled scores permit accurate and valid comparisons to be made among schools and districts, they do not reflect what students can and cannot do and can foster inaccurate interpretation,

TESTING FORMAT

The two testing formats - multiple-choice and open-ended are designed to provide a rounded picture of what students know, how they apply that knowledge and how they assimilate knowledge to carry out complex tasks.

In 1992, the assessment of writing within content areas was added to the program. A committee of educators developed descriptions of characteristics of written communication at various proficiency levels and these were used to develop scoring criteria for the writing in response to the open ended questions.

December 1, 1992
RESULTS: MEAP TESTS

COMPARISON SCORE BANDS

The Massachusetts Board of Education presents subject area scores in terms of Comparison Score Bands which allow us to compare the scores of students with those of other students in similar schools. Comparison Score Bands are determined by relating student background factors (such as parental education, English fluency, kindergarten attendance along with community factors (such as percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch and Kind of Community to performance on the test.

Cambridge is compared to 47 "Urbanized Centers" including Boston, Brockton, Worcester and to smaller communities such as Watertown and Malden, that, according to Department of Education analyses share economic, family, academic and cultural similarities. Comparison Score Bands are an important reference point. They signify that factors beyond the control of school affect students' academic performance. It is important to note that they are not prescriptive but nomative and do not indicate where a school should score, only where a school might be expected to score given the background factors involved.

INITIAL ACTION PLAN

The Superintendent's Cabinet held a two hour discussion on the MEAP test results on November 30, 1992.

On December 10th at the CRLS Library the Superintendent's Administrative Council will be having a presentation from the State Department of Education regarding: the purpose of the MEAP test; how to analyze test results in light of examining our curriculum and instruction and how to ask the right questions regarding the test results.

N.B. It is necessary to look at the specific curriculum area results for individual strengths and weaknesses in order to determine how our educational program can be improved.

With the assistance of Barbara Black our Program Evaluator, we are going to review the California Achievement Test (CAT) results in light of the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) results.

December 1, 1992
RESULTS: MEAP TESTS

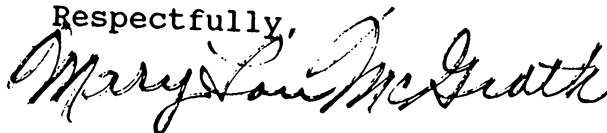
The Director of Elementary Education, Francis Foley along with the Coordinator of Primary Education, Lynn Stuart will be meeting with all elementary school principals to review their individual school results.

The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Sandra Spooner will be reviewing the (MEAP) results with the curriculum coordinators and the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Diane Tabor.

I will be forwarding to you a more detailed action plan when these reviews have been completed.

Please call the Office of Dr. Patrick J. Murphy at 349-6420 if you have any questions about the MEAP test results.

Respectfully,



Mary Lou McGrath
Superintendent of Schools

MLM:m

Attachments: Summary of MEAP by School
Summary of MEAP by District Performance

Summary of MEAP Test Results for Gr. 4 By School

SCHOOL	AVERAGE TEST SCORE			COMPARISON SCORE BAND	
	STATE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL		
Agassiz Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1310	1350 - 1440	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1400	1360 - 1450	*
Science	1330	1230	1360	1340 - 1430	*
Social Studies	1330	1240	1380	1340 - 1430	*
Fitzgerald Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1260	1230 - 1310	*
Mathematics	1330	1240	1240	1240 - 1310	*
Science	1330	1230	1230	1220 - 1300	*
Social Studies	1330	1240	1210	1230 - 1300	-
Fletcher Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1160	1180 - 1260	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1050	1190 - 1270	-
Science	1330	1230	1060	1170 - 1250	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1090	1180 - 1260	-
Graham/Parks Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1380	1290 - 1370	+
Mathematics	1330	1240	1450	1300 - 1380	+
Science	1330	1230	1400	1270 - 1350	+
Social Studies	1330	1240	1330	1290 - 1360	*
Harrington Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1080	1130 - 1190	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1100	1140 - 1210	-
Science	1330	1230	1070	1120 - 1190	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1090	1130 - 1190	-
Kennedy Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1120	1170 - 1240	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1130	1180 - 1250	-
Science	1330	1230	1150	1160 - 1230	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1140	1170 - 1240	-
King Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1340	1260 - 1330	+
Mathematics	1330	1240	1350	1280 - 1340	+
Science	1330	1230	1310	1240 - 1310	*
Social Studies	1330	1240	1330	1260 - 1320	+

Summary of MEAP Test Results for Gr. 4 By School

SCHOOL	AVERAGE TEST SCORE			COMPARISON SCORE BAND	
	STATE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL		
Longfellow Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1170	1160 - 1230	*
Mathematics	1330	1240	1220	1170 - 1240	*
Science	1330	1230	1250	1150 - 1230	+
Social Studies	1330	1240	1180	1160 - 1230	*
Morse Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1180	1160 - 1240	*
Mathematics	1330	1240	1140	1170 - 1250	-
Science	1330	1230	1130	1160 - 1240	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1150	1160 - 1240	-
Peabody Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1340	1310 - 1380	*
Mathematics	1330	1240	1330	1320 - 1390	*
Science	1330	1230	1290	1290 - 1360	*
Social Studies	1330	1240	1320	1300 - 1370	*
TobIn Gr. 4					
Reading	1330	1240	1310	1320 - 1390	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1290	1330 - 1390	-
Science	1330	1230	1290	1310 - 1370	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1320	1320 - 1380	*

Summary of MEAP Test Results for Gr. 8 12 By School

SCHOOL	AVERAGE TEST SCORE			COMPARISON SCORE BAND	
	STATE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL		
Agassiz Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1230	1260 - 1390	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1390	1270 - 1400	*
Science	1340	1240	1230	1260 - 1390	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1260	1250 - 1380	*
Fitzgerald Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1060	1170 - 1300	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1150	1180 - 1310	-
Science	1340	1240	1120	1180 - 1310	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1100	1160 - 1280	-
Fletcher Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1110	1120 - 1210	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1140	1140 - 1230	*
Science	1340	1240	1110	1120 - 1210	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1150	1120 - 1210	*
Graham/Parks Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1420	1330 - 1430	*
Mathematics	1340	1260	1430	1350 - 1450	*
Science	1340	1240	1420	1320 - 1420	*
Social Studies	1320	1250	1330	1300 - 1400	*
Harrington Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1090	1040 - 1120	*
Mathematics	1340	1260	1160	1060 - 1140	*
Science	1340	1240	1140	1040 - 1130	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1110	1050 - 1130	*
Kennedy Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1100	1110 - 1200	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1150	1120 - 1220	*
Science	1340	1240	1130	1110 - 1210	*
Social Studies	1320	1250	1180	1100 - 1190	*
King Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1150	1330 - 1420	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1240	1340 - 1430	-
Science	1340	1240	1220	1320 - 1410	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1230	1330 - 1410	-

Summary of MEAP Test Results for Gr. 8 12 By School

SCHOOL	AVERAGE TEST SCORE			COMPARISON SCORE	
	STATE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	BAND	
Longfellow Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1340	1210 - 1290	+
Mathematics	1340	1260	1370	1240 - 1320	+
Science	1340	1240	1390	1210 - 1280	+
Social Studies	1320	1250	1400	1200 - 1270	+
Morse Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1320	1180 - 1290	+
Mathematics	1340	1260	1340	1190 - 1300	+
Science	1340	1240	1340	1190 - 1290	+
Social Studies	1320	1250	1280	1160 - 1260	+
Tobln Gr. 8					
Reading	1330	1210	1250	1300 - 1380	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1250	1310 - 1390	-
Science	1340	1240	1280	1300 - 1380	-
Social Studies	1320	1250	1280	1280 - 1360	*
CRLS Gr. 12					
Reading	1320	1220	1220	1200 - 1250	*
Mathematics	1320	1220	1220	1210 - 1260	*
Science	1320	1200	1200	1200 - 1250	*
Social Studies	1310	1220	1220	1190 - 1240	*

1992 MEAP Summary of District Performance

	AVERAGE TEST SCORE		COMPARISON SCORE BAND	
	STATE	DISTRICT		
Grade 4				
Reading	1330	1240	1250 - 1290	-
Mathematics	1330	1240	1260 - 1300	-
Science	1330	1230	1240 - 1280	-
Social Studies	1330	1240	1250 - 1280	-
Grade 8				
Reading	1230	1210	1240 - 1270	-
Mathematics	1340	1260	1250 - 1280	*
Science	1340	1240	1230 - 1270	*
Social Studies	1320	1250	1220 - 1260	*
Grade 12				
Reading	1320	1220	1200 - 1250	*
Mathematics	1320	1220	1210 - 1260	*
Science	1320	1200	1200 - 1250	*
Social Studies	1310	1220	1190 - 1240	*

Consent Comm. # 3

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Comm. from Mary Lou McGrath, Superintendent of Schools, transmitting information on the results of the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Tests.

In City Council,

January 11, 1993

Referred to the Mayor
to schedule a public
hearing as soon as
possible for appropriate
discussion at hand
Copy sent to Mayor
1/12/93 @