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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 5, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

**SECTION:** State and Regional

**LENGTH:** 187 words

**HEADLINE:** Governor signs legislation replacing high school MEAP

**BYLINE:** By JAMES PRICHARD, Associated Press Writer

**DATELINE:** GRAND RAPIDS, **Mich.**

**BODY:**

Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Wednesday signed legislation replacing the current MEAP high school test in the 2006-07 school year with a version of a college entrance **exam** to be called the **Michigan Merit Exam**.

The new, more rigorous **exam** is expected to help teachers better understand what 11th-grade students have learned in the classroom and identify the progress students still need to make to ensure success in college and on the job.

The **Michigan Merit Exam** will test college-entrance readiness in English, mathematics, reading, and science, and measure a student's ability to successfully enter the work force. The **exam** also will contain a social studies component.

Replacing the MEAP test was among 19 recommendations presented in December by the Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth.

The state superintendent of public instruction, the **Michigan** Department of Education and the State Board of Education will be responsible for developing the new high school standards for the **exam**.

The Education Department will ensure the **exam** meets the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.