



Progress Education is an achievement management, professional services company helping educators raise the performance of the students they serve.

We Optimize Student Performance

Volume 1 Issue 1

Dear Education Enthusiast,

Greetings and Happy Holidays! It's that time of year again, and the hustle and bustle of the holidays is upon us. During this busy time, staying up to date on current education issues is not an easy task. In order to ease this burden, Progress Education is introducing the inaugural edition of our quarterly newsletter. Our newsletter is designed to update, inform, and educate, as well as help you decide how to best use Progress solutions within your organization.

In the months and seasons to come, you will learn more about our products, and how they provide proven solutions to accelerate student achievement, while ensuring compliance with the standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

We thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the solutions offered by Progress Education Corporation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas P. Jandris, Ph.D.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Progress Education Corporation

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For more information about our company and our products, please visit us at www.progresseducation.com

Change in Testing Policies Due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

The massive problems caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita continue to affect schools around the country. In order to cope with these problems, the Louisiana School Board approved a one-year suspension of the rule that students have to pass the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program or LEAP exam, to move to the fifth or ninth grades. Under the change, fourth and eighth graders in public schools next spring will still take the LEAP exam, which is designed to see if students have mastered vital skills. They are not, however, required to pass the exam before moving to the next grade level. The new rules for the test were part of a series of far-reaching policy changes to cope with the disruption and devastation caused by the Hurricanes.



Only concrete steps remain at Pass Christian Middle School in Mississippi. Located a few blocks from the beach, the school was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Two other district schools were severely damaged.

In addition to the changes made to LEAP, the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education also voted to:

- Allow shorter school years in affected parishes;
- Permit overcrowding in the classrooms due to the large number of displaced students; and,
- Allow high school seniors who left the state for other schools qualify for a Louisiana diploma.

Donations made to provide relief to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are tax deductible. The following organizations are accepting donations:

- Baton Rouge Area Foundation 402 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. 70802
- American Red Cross (800) HELP-NOW
<http://www.redcross.com>

To assist the families affected by Hurricane Katrina, Progress Education has matched employee contributions as well as donated to the American Red Cross.

Article source: <http://2theadvocate.com/>

Progress Solution: **Teacher ToolKit**
Visit us Online at www.neateachertoolkit.com

ACT Replaces MEAP in Michigan

Beginning with the class of 2008, all high school students in MICHIGAN will be required to take the American College Test (ACT) and the WorkKeys skills assessment in place of the existing Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test.

Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth found that the use of a college entrance exam as the standard high school assessment in other states actually led to an increase in the number of students who decided to attend college.

Currently, high school students who choose to take the ACT must pay approximately \$70 and take the test on a Saturday. By making this exam available to all high school students at no cost to the student, the state will ensure that every student has the needed entrance exam completed in order to qualify for admission into a college or university.

The new test will be administered on a common two-day period in the spring of each year, with one day for the ACT, and the other day for WorkKeys and the assessments of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies tests. A two-day re-test period will occur two weeks later. The spring tests will be administered in schools exactly as the college entrance tests are administered in a national Saturday administration. The State will pay for one re-test for each student, although ACT offers a fee-waiver program for qualified low-income students.

Article Source - <http://www.ecs.org/00CN2693>

Progress Solution: **ExamScore**

Visit us Online at <http://www.progresseducation.com/tools.html#ExamScore>

No Child Left Behind – Are You in Compliance?

Decisions in Florida by the U.S. Department of Education, if implemented nationwide, would bar groups affiliated with school systems rated "in need of improvement" from participating in the tutoring program mandated under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Entities likely to be barred from the program--worth an estimated \$2 billion a year in federal funding--include teacher unions, child-care centers, after-school programs, voc-ed or computer centers, and parents' groups. The move represents a potential boon for private, third-party providers in the region. It also holds national implications for districts that are considering offering such tutoring- or supplemental education services (SES)--themselves, because (a) it reaffirms ED's general position that no district in need of improvement is allowed to serve as its own SES provider; and (b) it further clarifies that the prohibition also applies to groups and programs affiliated with such school systems.

Prospects for the nationwide ban emerged with the release of an ED communication affecting at least three Florida school systems. All were rated "in need of improvement" under NCLB. None of the schools systems, nor any affiliated group, could be SES providers for struggling students and instead must find private, third-party tutors for these pupils, according to ED. Under NCLB, schools that fail for three consecutive years to meet their state's standards for adequate yearly progress, or AYP--a set of benchmarks for annual improvement established individually by each state--must offer parents of low-income (Title I) students their choice of tutoring from among a state-approved list of SES providers. Districts can use between 5 percent and 15 percent of their Title I funds to pay for this tutoring, but they must spend at least 5 percent of their Title I funding on SES if parents of eligible students request such services.

The SES rules have spawned a whole new industry in education--one that analysts estimate could exceed \$2 billion a year within the next few years. Since the law's inception in 2001, more than 1,800 SES providers have lined up across the country to begin taking advantage of these revenues.

Progress Solution: **Consulting Services**

Visit us Online at <http://www.progresseducation.com/consulting.html>

How Can Progress Education Help?

Our products and services provide proven solutions to accelerate student achievement, while ensuring compliance with the standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), as well as other Federal and State legislation. We provide the most efficient and effective means for school districts to close gaps in the learning process and account for the results they produce in educating America's children.

Our management team has a century of experience in identifying, developing/acquiring, branding, and successfully selling education solutions that work. Through our network of educators and solution providers, we have access to, and the ability to develop, a spectrum

of best of class systems, products, and services that can be selected and delivered to meet the specific needs of each client.

The Progress Education team is comprised of professionals around the country who have an extensive background in education; a comprehensive understanding of the challenges that districts face; and the knowledge, skills, and commitment necessary to increase student achievement. Their areas of expertise include:

- ❖ Curriculum Design and Development
- ❖ Assessment Design and Development
- ❖ Standards Development and Resource Alignment
- ❖ Using Data to Drive Instruction
- ❖ Instructional Methodologies to Increase Student Performance
- ❖ Public Policy Consulting
- ❖ Product Management and Development
- ❖ Implementation Design and Management
- ❖ Requirements Gathering and Project Management
- ❖ K-12 Achievement Management Solutions Training
- ❖ Training Materials Design and Development
- ❖ School Finance and Cost/Benefit Consulting
- ❖ Data Warehouse Planning and Implementation
- ❖ Technology Consulting Services
- ❖ Software Development & Architectural Design

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