

SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

MI-Access assessments are administered each school year in districts across Michigan. After administration is complete, assessment materials are submitted to the MI-Access contractor—Beck Evaluation and Testing Associates/Touchstone Applied Science Associates (BETA/TASA)—and results are returned to the districts in which students were assessed.

The purpose of this handbook is to assist educators, parents, and other stakeholders with understanding, interpreting, and using the results from one of the MI-Access assessments—**Functional Independence**. A separate handbook will be prepared in spring 2007 when the MI-Access Participation and Supported Independence Version 1.5 (P/SI v1.5) assessments become operational.

This 2006/2007 handbook includes general information on how and why MI-Access was developed, as well as specific information on

- how the MI-Access Functional Independence assessments are designed,
- how students are scored,
- how performance standards are determined,
- how assessment results are reported and distributed, and
- how results can be used to improve programs, instruction, and student performance.

When assessment results are used in meaningful ways, they translate into better learning and improved student achievement.