There will be a basic testing program designed to evaluate the outcomes of the educational program and to provide information needed in working with individuals. The basic testing program shall be supplemented by such individual tests as the need of the educational program and the District would seem to indicate. This program shall be coordinated by the Superintendent from Pre-K through grade 12 in order to provide continuity in the total program.

Test Selection and Adoption (Cf. 8940 et seq.)

Psychological and guidance oriented tests may be selected for use in the District upon recommendation of the guidance counselor and building Principal and approved by the Board. The guidance staff is encouraged to develop such tests that measure local norms based on characteristics of students in the District. The use of personality-measuring tests will be used with great discretion.

Test Administration (Cf. 8940 et seq.)

Each building Principal in cooperation with the guidance staff shall schedule individual and group testing at times, which will not disrupt the educational decorum of the school.

Use and Dissemination of Test Results (Cf. 8940 et seq.)

Under no circumstances will the results of any individual or group test as defined in these policies be given to unauthorized people. When interpreting individual or group test results, staff members shall use great care so as not to identify any individual.

Generalized results of mass testing may be given to parent(s)/guardian(s) and other authorized persons in the form of a report if adequate interpretation of said results accompanies the report. No report shall be given to any person without prior approval of the Superintendent. Procedure in such matters is defined in these policies, generally.

All test results must be filed in a secure place not available to unauthorized individuals.

Student Assessment

Each school improvement plan shall provide for student assessment methods that use a variety of criteria-based strategies, including at least: Written examinations, oral examinations, alternative questions, demonstrations, writing exercises, individual
projects, group projects, performances, student portfolios, and samples of student’s best works.

Testing Out

Under Michigan law, (MCL 380.1279b) a student who desires to receive credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course may do so by attaining a grade of not less than 80% for the final exam and/or other comprehensive paper, portfolio, presentation, project, or assessment in the course. Credit will not be granted, however, for a course in a subject area lower in course sequence than one for which the student has already earned credit.

The Board of Education of the Grand Rapids Public Schools recognizes that some students may have acquired knowledge and skills at levels that would allow them to demonstrate a reasonable degree of mastery without taking specified courses. The Board extends to all GRPS high school students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery in the range of courses offered by the District.

Approved: June 29, 2009

LEGAL REF: MCL 380.1172; 380.1204a; 380.1278; 380.1279; 380.1279b; 380.1279c;