



Strategies for Success

From a former Michigan High School Principal

What is WorkKeys®?

WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring real world, applied skills that employers consider critical to job success. These skills are valuable for any occupation and level of education. The WorkKeys system documents how well test takers perform using these skills.

WorkKeys *Reading for Information* is a set of skills commonly taught and used in classroom settings for prospective workers preparing for the job market.

WorkKeys *Applied Mathematics* emphasizes the application of mathematics skills taught in the classroom about the solution of specific workplace problem and situations.

WorkKeys assessments focus on skills that are needed to function effectively on the job from day one and to demonstrate sustained performance over time in the workplace. At the same time, these assessments provide an indication of students' academic knowledge gained in these critical areas.

Why is WorkKeys Important for the MME?

Approximately 45% of the Michigan Merit Examination Reading score is based on the WorkKeys Reading for Information test. About 30% of the Michigan Merit Examination Mathematics score is based on the WorkKeys Applied Mathematics test.

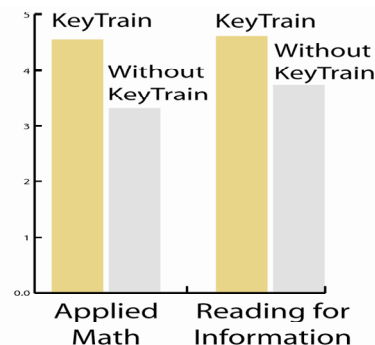
Similarly, in Illinois, high school students take the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE).

The PSAE is...

The ACT assessment +
WorkKeys + Science Test

Sound familiar?

Illinois schools have found that students can raise their overall PSAE scores quickest by raising their WorkKeys scores. In fact, increases in WorkKeys scores had a higher impact per unit on total PSAE score than increases in ACT scores. Therefore, studying WorkKeys skills (with KeyTrain) is a high impact preparation activity.



PSAE Reading Composite Scores
Impact of a unit increase in WorkKeys

ACT	WorkKeys Level 3	WorkKeys Level 4
13	132-134	137-146
14	132-136	138-148
15	134-137	140-149
16	135-138	141-150
17	137-139	142-151

Impact of a unit increase in ACT score

KeyTrain is the ACT "Level I Publisher" and "Preferred Provider" of WorkKeys curriculum. KeyTrain online web based or networked computer based curriculum can provide you with the tools to build the skills students need on the Michigan Merit Examination. For information or a free demo please feel free to contact me.

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Illinois students who used KeyTrain for as little as 5 hours scored 1 level higher on WorkKeys on average.