

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

## More students in classrooms this year means greater participation on state tests

## Telford Telescope: Recalling DPS speed

LANSING - With more students learning in the classroom this spring, over 96 percent of students took the M-STEP state assessments this year compared to 70 percent last year, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) reported today.

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced in-person learning in schools across the state in the spring of 2020 and during the 2020-21 school year. In the summer of 2020, to track student achievement during the pandemic, State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice recommended to the legislature the requirement that all districts administer and report benchmark assessment results in their local communities and to the state, a recommendation passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the governor.

At the same time, MDE requested and received a blanket waiver from administering state assessments and the school index accountability system in 2020 by the U.S. Department of Education (USED). In 2021, USED approved MDE's waiver request associated with the school index accountability system, but denied MDE's request to set aside state assessments, in spite of very high COVID-19 numbers in the winter and spring of 2021.

The accountability waiver last year set aside, among others, the federal requirement to test 95 percent of all students. Schools administered the M-STEP to those students able to come to school during the spring 2021 testing window,

marked by significant parent concerns about elevated COVID-19 numbers. As a result, Michigan had a 70 percent participation rate.

"It's great to see higher participation rates this year, one more indication that higher percentages of parents, students, and staff are comfortable in schools and that we are turning the corner relative to the pandemic," said Dr. Rice. "It's a positive sign to see more children in school on a regular basis, where they are able to interact with one another and their teachers to help them grow, learn, and thrive in a wide range of ways."

A consequence of more students assessed this year after two years of disrupted learning is an increase in third grade students whose scores on the state's English language arts assessment make them more likely to be identified for being retained in third grade next year.



By John Telford, PhD.  
SUN COLUMNIST




From left in this 1956 WSU relay-team photo are Cliff Hatcher (All-American quarter-miler at Central High), me (NCAA All-American quarter-miler out of Northwestern and Denby), Ralph Williams (sprinter from St. Kitts, B.W.I.), 'Bullet Billy' Smith (world 65-yard low hurdles record-holder out of Northwestern), and our Michigan Sports Hall of Fame coach Dave Holmes. This 4 x 220-yard relay team won at the Ohio Relays and the Penn relays in 1956. With former Marine Corps 440 champ Ralph Carter out of old Northern High replacing Billy, we won at 4 x 440-yards at Ohio and Penn the same year. Another Wayne foursome--Leon Wingo out of Hamtramck High, 5-time Michigan AAU sprint champion Pete Petross, Olympic sprinter/long-jumper Lorenzo Wright, and world 70-yard record-holder Buddy Coleman out of old Miller--won at Penn at 4 x 110-yards and 4 x 220-yards in 1949. Yet another team representing the Detroit Track Club broke the world 4 x 220-yard mark in 1958 with world 60-yard record-holder Jim Bibbs, 'Bullet Billy' and Petross. We then made history in the National AAU sprint-relay race at New York's old Madison Square Garden when we dropped the baton on the first stick-exchange to fall from first to last place in about two seconds in a race of less than two minutes and incredibly came back--powered by Petross' blazing

anchor leg--to miss winning the gold medals by inches!

In addition to Wright, Smith, Coleman, and me, other national team members and/or world record-breakers out of DPS included Olympians J. K. Doherty, John Lewis, Eddie Tolan, Henry Carr, Delisa Walton-Floyd, Lauren Williams, Darnell Hall, and Louis Scott--plus shot-putter Charles Fonville and sprinters and quarter-milers Clarence Ray, Willis Ward, Marshall Dill, Deon Hogan, Stan Vinson, Wendy Truvillion, and Eliot Tabron. Others who approached that level included Ron Phillips, Randy Williams, James Grace, Paul Jones, "Jumping Johnny" Kline, Mark Smith, Bernard Cage, Thomas Wilcher, Charlie Robinson, Bob Manning, Frank Carissimi, Anthony Mahone, Don Robinson, Ken Burnley, and Jerry Green. Holmes coached Wayne from 1917 until 1958 but never got the fieldhouse for track that he awaited in vain for 40 years. Now a 200-meter track and bleachers can be built in the prospective \$12.6 million domed fieldhouse in Chandler Park for age-group, high school, and post-high-school competition. Urge Mayor Duggan and City Councilwomen Sheffield and Johnson to ensure that it will happen!

Track historian John Telford outran reigning and future Olympic champions and went unbeaten at 200/400 meters on the U.S. team in Europe. Detroit high school tracks are named for him (EEV), for Wright (Kling), for Petross (Mumford), and for Carr (NW). Hear him Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on WCHB AM1340 and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. on WJZZ Internet TV. Contact him at Dr.JohnTelfordEdD@aol.com or (313) 460-8272.



### LEGAL NOTICE

**Attention: Vended School Meals Companies**

The Inkster Preparatory Academy is requesting proposals for school food service vended meals. The vendor will provide meals according to United States Department of Agriculture regulations and guidelines, as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

A copy of the RFP will be available by email at [sarnnett@accelschools.com](mailto:sarnnett@accelschools.com) by June 1, 2022. A pre-bid meeting will be held on June 2, 2022, at 9:00 am at 27355 Woodsfield, Inkster, MI 48141. All proposals must be submitted **electronically** no later than 9:00 am on June 22, 2022. Hard copy proposals should also be submitted to:

**Inkster Preparatory Academy**  
27355 Woodsfield  
Inkster, MI 48141

The Inkster Preparatory Academy Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.



# Dr. JOHN TELFORD

## WCHB AM1340

Saturdays at 9:30 AM  
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Get his books at [amazon](https://www.amazon.com) or call (313) 460-8272