**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY**

**Topic:** Essential Skills of Reading and Writing status update for the 2009-2010 cohort (Class of 2013)

**Date:** May 16, 2013

**Staff/Office:** Derek Brown, Cristen McLean, OAIS

**Action Requested: [x]  Informational Only [ ]  Adoption Later** **[ ]  Adoption [ ]  Adoption/Consent Agenda**

**ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:** To present the State Board of Education an update regarding the 2009-2010 cohort (Class of 2013).

* The 2009-2010 cohort is the first group of students that will be held accountable for demonstrating proficiency in the Essential Skill of Writing, in addition to the Reading requirement implemented the year prior, in order to be awarded a regular or modified diploma.
* This informational update will provide current statistics on how many students from the 2009-2010 cohort have passed the state reading and writing assessments. The state test is the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS).
* This informational update will also provide some anecdotal information based on conversations with a sampling of districts regarding students that have not yet satisfied the requirements via OAKS.
* In addition to information on the 2009-10 cohort, presenters will also provide a first look at the current Essential Skills status of students from the 2010-11 cohort, who will be held accountable for the Essential Skills of Reading, Writing, and Math. This information will be based on the most current OAKS performance data.
* The presentation will begin with some background on the Essential Skills requirements, the implementation plan, approved assessment options, and a quick review of the various exit options and corresponding requirements (regular diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma, etc.).

**BACKGROUND:** The Essential Skills graduation requirements are being implemented in a staggered fashion, starting with students with a cohort year of 2008-09 that were held accountable for the Essential Skill of Reading as part of their requirements to earn a regular or modified diploma. That cohort largely graduated last year with the Class of 2012. This year, students in the 2009-10 cohort (Class of 2013) represent the first group of students to be held accountable for the Essential Skill of Writing, which is added to the Reading requirement from the previous year. Next year, students in the 2010-11 cohort (Class of 2014) will have the Math requirement added to the Reading and Writing requirements.

Essential Skills graduation requirements are applied to students based on when they first enter high school, referred to as the cohort year. There are three approved assessment options for students to demonstrate their Essential Skills proficiencies: OAKS, other approved standardized tests, and local performance assessments (work samples).