

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: Essential Skills update – Class of 2015 results, transition plan, postsecondary policies

Date: April 9, 2015

Staff/Office: Derek Brown, Cristen McLean, Lisa Mentz

Action Requested: Informational Only Adoption Later Adoption Adoption/Consent Agenda

ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

Informational updates on (a) Class of 2015 Essential Skills results, (b) Essential Skills transition plan (methodology) as it applies to OAKS and Smarter Balanced, and (c) Smarter Balanced postsecondary transition policies.

BACKGROUND:

Class of 2015 Results

This update will provide Essential Skills information for the Class of 2015. This group entered high school in 2011-2012 (cohort year) and is the first group required to demonstrate proficiency in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in order to earn a regular or modified diploma. Students are able to demonstrate proficiency using a variety of assessment options, including (a) the state test (OAKS, Smarter Balanced), (b) other approved standardized tests, and (c) local performance assessments (work samples). ODE staff will provide information regarding the methods students used to demonstrate Essential Skills proficiency, as reported by school districts.

OAKS to Smarter Balanced Essential Skills Transition Plan

As Oregon shifts from its current statewide assessment (OAKS) to the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts and Math in 2014 – 2015, ODE must establish equivalent levels of achievement on the grade 11 Smarter Balanced Assessments relative to the “meets” achievement level on OAKS. ODE staff will provide an update on the methodological approach being implemented this spring and summer to derive an equivalent level of achievement between the two assessments.

Oregon Department of Education (ODE) plans to use information from multiple methods to establish the achievement level on the Smarter Balanced scale that represents an equivalent level of rigor to the current OAKS “meets” achievement level. Across the following methods, ODE will be looking for strong confirmatory evidence of equivalent rigor:

1. Direct Linking: OAKS to Smarter Balanced Field Test*
2. OAKS Item Embedding in Operational Smarter Balanced Assessments*
3. Equi-Percentile: OAKS to Operational Smarter Balanced Assessments*

**If needed through the process, professional judgment will be exercised*

Smarter Balanced Postsecondary Transition Policies

CCWD staff will provide updates on postsecondary policies regarding the use of Smarter Balanced assessment results.