

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: First Reading/Adoption: Essential Skills Achievement Standard on Smarter Balanced/Cut Scores

Date: September 17, 2015

Staff/Office: Derek Brown, Cristen McLean, Office of Learning

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

ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD: To adopt the Essential Skills achievement standards for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics on the grade 11 Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments.

BACKGROUND:

The Essential Skills graduation requirements were adopted by the State Board of Education in June 2008. The first three Essential Skills (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) were adopted and applied to students based on when they first enter high school, referred to as the “cohort year,” and are applied to students earning a regular or modified diploma. The specific implementation plan for Essential Skills is based on a staggered approach:

- 2008-2009 Cohort – Reading
- 2009-2010 Cohort – Reading and Writing
- 2010-2011 Cohort – Reading, Writing, and Mathematics

In addition to the staggered implementation plan, the State Board of Education has also adopted three primary assessment categories by which students can demonstrate proficiency in each of the Essential Skills:

- 1) State test;
- 2) Other standardized tests (such as SAT, ACT, etc.); and
- 3) Work samples (local performance assessments scored using the official state scoring guides).

According to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-22-0615, the Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel (AESRP) has the responsibility of recommending to the State Board of Education the achievement standard on each assessment used for demonstrating proficiency in the Essential Skills. Across assessment options, AESRP is expected to recommend achievement standards that represent comparable levels of rigor. The State Board of Education then has the responsibility of determining whether to adopt AESRP’s recommendations. To ensure that students have adequate notice about the achievement standard they need to meet to graduate, OAR 581-22-0615 states, “School districts and public charter schools shall allow students to use assessment options and achievement standards adopted by the State Board of Education in a student’s ninth through twelfth grade years as follows:

- (a) Students may demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills using assessment options adopted in their ninth through twelfth grade years.
- (b) Students may use achievement standards adopted in their 9th through 12th grade years that are equal to or lower than the achievement standards approved as of March 1 of the students’ 8th grade year.”

Since fall of 2014 Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and AESRP have been planning for the transition in the first assessment category, state tests, as Oregon moves from administering OAKS to administering Smarter Balanced assessments. Specifically, ODE and AESRP has been planning how to find achievement standards on the Smarter Balanced scale that represent comparable levels of rigor to the OAKS “meets” achievement standards.

In August of 2015 ODE held an AESRP meeting during which panelists went through a structured process to evaluate a variety of sources of evidence and develop recommendations regarding the Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Essential Skills achievement standards.

ISSUE OVERVIEW:

ODE staff will provide information about the process used to identify the Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Essential Skills achievement standards on the grade 11 Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for demonstrating proficiency in the Essential Skills graduation requirement.

Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel Engagement

In preparation for developing recommendations to the State Board of Education, AESRP engaged in discussions regarding the process for identifying the Smarter Balanced achievement standards across four meetings starting in April of 2014. In addition, a subgroup of AESRP engaged in more detailed conversations about the methods and preliminary results in July and August of 2015.

AESRP then convened in person at the Oregon Department of Education on 8/27/2015. During this meeting panelists discussed the strengths and limitations of each source of evidence and engaged in table discussions and consensus building processes to develop their recommendations about achievement standards for each Essential Skill. Subsequently, panelists contributed to a statement that summarized the rationale and evidence supporting their recommendations.

Cut Score Motions

- After approval of a motion, AESRP is making a recommendation that the achievement standard on the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts reading claim be set at 2515 for the purposes of demonstrating proficiency on the Essential Skill of Reading.
- After approval of a motion, AESRP is making a recommendation that the achievement standard on the Smarter Balanced writing claim be set at 2610 for the purposes of demonstrating proficiency on the Essential Skill of Writing.
- After approval of a motion, AESRP is making a recommendation that the achievement standard on Smarter Balanced Mathematics be set at 2543 for the purposes of demonstrating proficiency on the Essential Skill of Mathematics.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

ODE staff recommends adoption of the achievement standards for the Smarter Balanced grade 11 assessments for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics as recommended by the Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel. These achievement standards will go into effect retroactively for the 2014-15 school year.