



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MAR 3 2009

The Honorable Susan Castillo
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE
Public Service Building
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Superintendent Castillo:

I am pleased to approve Oregon's assessment system under Title I of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended. I congratulate you on meeting this important requirement.

My decision is based on input from peer reviewers external to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and Department staff who reviewed and carefully considered the evidence submitted by Oregon. I have concluded that the evidence demonstrates that Oregon's standards and assessment system satisfies the ESEA requirements. Specifically, Oregon's system includes academic content standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; student achievement standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; general assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and one grade in high school and science assessments once in each of three grade spans (grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12); and alternate assessments in the corresponding grades in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science. Accordingly, Oregon's system warrants **Full Approval with Recommendations**. This status means that Oregon's standards and assessment system meets all statutory and regulatory requirements in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; however, one element of the system could be improved. It is recommended that Oregon annually implement external verification of at least a sample of alternate assessment scores in order to ensure scoring accuracy and other aspects of test administration quality.

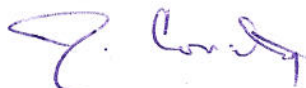
Please be aware that approval of Oregon's assessment system under the ESEA is not a determination that the system complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, and requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Finally, please remember that, if Oregon makes significant changes in its assessment system, the State must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

We have found it a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations on your State's approved standards and assessment system under the ESEA. I wish you well in your continued efforts to improve student achievement in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Conaty".

Joseph C. Conaty
Delegated the Authority to Perform
the Functions and Duties of Assistant Secretary
for Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski
Doug Kosty
Tony Alpert