

# Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel

Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2018

**Friday, April 6, 2018**

**Panel Members Present:** Ralph Brown, Ellen Irish, Jay Mathison, Jill Sumerlin, John Bouchard, Krista Nieraeth, Laurie Ross, Lori Cullen Brown, Marie Shimer, Marilyn Williams, Melissa Glover, Michelle Zundel, Ralph Brown, Robin DeLoach, Sarah Cunningham, Shaun Gross

**Facilitating:** Bryan Toller, Tony Bertrand,

**ODE Attendance:** Dan Farley, Steve Slater, and Cristen McLean

## Welcome and Agenda Overview

Bryan Toller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda with the Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel (AESRP) members.

### I. 9:00 - 9:05 Review of Minutes

Ralph Brown motioned to approve the minutes from January 12, 2018. John Bouchard seconded the motion. The majority were in favor with 12 voting to approve minutes; 0 opposed; 4 abstain; 2 absent.

Motion passed.

### II. 9:05 - 9:50 Updates

#### a. Essential Skills Option for English Learners: OAR Amendment

Dan Farley presented the State Board of Education's recent amendment to the Essential Skills for English Language Learners OAR (581 - 022 - 2120) which includes an important policy update for school districts that have adopted a policy allowing English Learners (ELs) to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in the students' language of origin.

Policy Update: An EL student pursuing a diploma in 2017 - 2018 or 2018 - 2019 may demonstrate proficiency in the reading and/or writing Essential Skills in the student's language of origin as long as the student:

- Is on track to meet all other graduation requirements
- Is unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English
- Has been enrolled in a U.S. school for five years or fewer.

#### b. Essential Skills Assessment Option: WorkKeys 2.0

Dan Farley presented the State Board of Education's decision on March 22, 2018, to adopt AESRP's recommendation for WorkKeys 2.0.

WorkKeys 2.0 Workplace Documents was approved as an assessment option to fulfill the Reading Essential Skill when a student earns a score of 79 or higher. WorkKeys 2.0 Applied Math was approved as an assessment option to fulfill the Math Essential Skill when a student earns a score of 79 or higher.

#### c. Other Standardized Assessment Option: GED

Steve Slater shared with AESRP members that ODE received student-level GED scores from the GED Testing Service (i.e., American Council on Education/Pearson). Next steps discussed include the following: matching Smarter Balanced and GED student records; determining whether a linking study is viable; and if viable, conducting the linking study and report the findings back to AESRP.

The time interval for the linking study would initially be 6 months and extended to 12 months if not enough student records were available.

Bryan Toller reminded AESRP members of a potential fourth meeting occurring prior to summer for input and feedback for achievement levels.

**d. Local Assessment Option**

Steve Slater communicated that ODE has begun developing guidance concerning established professional and technical standards to assist districts in the development and administration of local assessments.

Guidance will address standardized and unstandardized local assessments. The draft guidance for standardized local assessments consists of recommendations for evidence (i.e., documentation and empirical studies) corresponding to four professional and technical standards: validity, reliability, fairness, and scale linking.

Bryan Toller communicated an opportunity for additional AESRP members to participate in providing ongoing feedback as this guidance document is drafted. AESRP members will contact Bryan Toller via email communication to express interest. Further, if an additional spring meeting is needed this document could potentially be shared with AESRP prior to the release of the 2018-19 Essential Skills Manual.

**e. High School Assessment**

Dan Farley provided an update on the high school assessment options. Stakeholder engagement continues to be an ongoing process to address concerns in the original Request for Information (RFI) from the two participating vendors: College Board SAT and American College Testing (ACT).

In collaborating with other states that have already participated in a similar process, alignment of the vendor's test and adopted content standards continues to be an area of concern. This concern is expected to be an issue in evaluating Oregon's adopted content standards with the vendor's tests. Oregon will continue to analyze other concerns brought forward through the stakeholder engagement process: accessibility supports, equity in reportable scores, cost and time, and compliance with Oregon's plan for meeting the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). At present, no nationally recognized high school academic assessment has met the Peer Review requirements.

A procurement process timeline was shared with AESRP members. Pending stakeholder support and legislative funding approval, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) could complete development of an RFP and a potential budget request would be made during the 2019 legislative session.

ODE is continuing to discuss and pursue additional options for the current Smarter Balanced high school assessment. One option shared with AESRP members is allowing students who are able to take the assessment to test early at 10<sup>th</sup> grade but maintain 11<sup>th</sup> grade for accountability. An additional option being considered is shifting the assessed grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. ODE will continue to collaborate with Smarter Balanced to increase utility of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school assessment scores for future course selections. Finally, ODE will collaborate with Higher Education College Commission to establish college acceptance guidelines using the current summative assessment.

**III. 9:50 - 10:00 Other Standardized Assessment Option – PreACT**

Bryan Toller introduced a *Recommendation for New Essential Skills Assessment Option Form PreACT* that was submitted for PreACT for reading and math. The reasons listed for the request were: Number and quality of accessibility supports available and language supports available (e.g., translations, glossaries, ability for students to respond in a language other than English).

One AESRP member stated that multiple districts had discussed the request for PreACT as an option to be considered by AESRP members as an Other Standardized Assessment Option. Another AESRP member stated that many districts currently offer the PSAT to 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students, and were in support of the decision to add the PSAT as an Other Standardized Assessment Option. Therefore, the recommendation was made for ODE to look at cut scores for the Pre-ACT to support districts that might already be using it as an assessment.

A motion to move forward with Step 3 of the technical quality analysis was made by Michelle Cummings and Lori Brown made a second motion in support. The majority were in favor with 11 voting to approve minutes; 0 opposed; 5 abstain; 2 absent.

The motion passed to conduct a technical quality analysis.

**IV. 10:00 - 10:05 AESRP Membership Status**

Bryan Toller reviewed the guidelines for AESRP Membership Status. The Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction appoints panelist for AESRP. Current members were notified to contact Bryan Toller if they had intentions or plans to change their membership status.

**V. 10:05 - 10:10 Follow-up Meeting Dates**

Bryan Toller reviewed the potential follow-up meeting dates based on the need for AESRP members to provide additional feedback for the GED achievement standards and potentially the Local Assessment Option guidance document currently being developed by ODE and the AESRP subcommittee. The proposed window for an additional AESRP meeting would occur in either May or early June.

Bryan Toller further reviewed potential dates for the 2018 – 2019 AESRP meeting schedule with current members. AESRP members provided initial guidance on acceptable dates for ODE to consider and send out via an online poll for additional confirmation.

**VI. 10:10 – 10:15 Follow-up Questions**

Cristen McLean provided clarification for an AESRP member's question addressing any potential changes to Oregon diploma requirements. The Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction maintains a graduation advisory committee. Cristen McLean communicated that she was not aware of any discussions about changes at this time. Additionally, ODE is conducting internal meetings to increase coordination in support of the overall goal of improving graduation rates across Oregon.

**VII. 10:15 Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.