

Executive Numbered Memo 001-2006-07 - Notice to Districts: Standards and Assessment Peer Review

July 10, 2006

Notice to Districts: Standards and Assessment Peer Review

The Oregon Department of Education received an [update on its status](#) in the U.S. Department of Education's standards and assessment peer review in late June.

The letter indicated ODE will be required to develop a plan and detailed timeline for how it will meet the requirements to come into full compliance by the end of the 2006-07 school year -- and avoid loss of federal funds.

This plan must be submitted to the US Department of Education by the end of July. The timeline is very short, and we will discuss the issues in more detail with the Assessment Advisory Committee as soon as possible. There is much work to be done and impact on districts will be significant.

What this means for districts:

1. Current Achievement Standards and Performance Descriptors must be reviewed by stakeholders -- and potentially revised, based on their recommendations. Districts will then be held accountable for these new standards for the 2006-07 school year.
2. Extended Career and Life Role Assessments (CLRAS) assessments cannot be included in 2006-07 participation or performance based the results of the peer review and NCLB Title I monitoring. ODE is working with the University of Oregon to develop and administer in 2006-07 a new version of the Extended Assessments consistent with US Department of Education regulations to include students who otherwise accessed the assessment system through the CLRAS.
3. Assessments targeted at a lower grade level cannot be included in 2006-07 participation or performance. The US Department of Education requires that students be assessed either on grade level standards or alternate achievement standards. Districts should plan on the contingency that tests administered at a grade level higher than the enrolled grade may also not be eligible to be included in participation or performance.
4. Modified or Partial assessments cannot be included in 2006-07 participation or performance. In 2005-06 ODE counted modified assessments as evidence of participation, but not as sufficient for demonstrating mastery of the standards. Similarly, a student who answered at least one question on a test was considered to demonstrate participation but not sufficient to meet standard unless approximately half of the questions have been answered (i.e. a valid score can be computed). However, the US Department of Education is requiring for the 2006-07 school year that ODE only include valid scores in the calculations of AYP participation and performance.
5. Juried assessments will not be eligible to be included in 2006-07 participation or performance if federal peer reviewers do not approve the juried assessment by August 1, 2007. Oregon must provide evidence that students who access the assessment system through the juried assessment system are held to same expectations (breadth and depth of content) as students who take multiple choice assessments.

6. There will be questions about addressing the IEP issues for students with disabilities. The Special Education staff at ODE is crafting guidance and will share that information as soon as it is ready. IEPs should not be revised based on the information above until such time as ODE guidance on special education is distributed.

ODE is working diligently to pull together a plan to satisfy the requirements of the US Department of Education. ODE staff members are in contact with US Department of Education staff to ensure that our plan will satisfy federal requirements.

These changes will be applied to 06-07 AYP and the Assessment results posted on the web. The department has not yet made a decision about the inclusion rules for the report card. A revised table of the inclusion rules by test type and accountability report will be available by September 1.

For more information, please contact Doug Kosty.