

Executive Numbered Memo 001-2011-12 – OAKS Writing Assessment Eligibility

August 11, 2011

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

RE: OAKS Writing Assessment Eligibility

Summary: Starting this school year, OAKS Writing and OAKS Extended Writing Assessments will be limited to students enrolled in grade 11.

This past session, the Oregon Legislature approved significant cuts to the Oregon Department of Education's operating budget. As part of these cuts, the Legislature voted to make significant changes to the statewide Writing Performance Assessment for the coming 2011-2013 biennium. The Legislature voted to suspend the Writing Performance Assessment, including the OAKS Extended Writing Assessment, at grades 4 and 7. At the high school level, only students currently enrolled in grade 11 who have not yet met or exceeded the writing standard may take the Writing Assessment. Students enrolled in grades 9, 10, or 12 may not participate, regardless of their Essential Skills status. For OAKS Writing, each 11th grade student will have one opportunity to be assessed and may either take the online assessment or the paper-based assessment, but not both. All 11th grade assessments will be scored by at least two raters. The OAKS Extended Writing Assessment at the 11th grade will continue to be paper-based only and will be scored as in prior years.

Students will still have the option of using local performance assessments (work samples) to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skill of Writing (for graduation purposes). To support districts in carrying out this option, ODE staff will be offering a wide array of official state scoring guide training sessions (delivered via WebEx) throughout the 2011-2012 school year. These sessions are designed to train school/district personnel to provide professional development on Essential Skills assessments, particularly work sample task development and scoring guide calibration training, using a "train-the-trainer" model. The WebEx scoring guide training sessions will cover the three required Essential Skills (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) at both the high school and middle school levels. Following each 2-hour session, participants will receive all the materials necessary to conduct workshops locally, including a PowerPoint presentation, facilitator's manual, and ready-to-print handout packets.

For more detailed information on the training sessions, a calendar of workshop dates and times, and information on how to register, please visit the [Essential Skills](#) webpage.

If you have additional questions regarding the OAKS Writing assessment or official state scoring guide training opportunities, please contact [Derek Brown](#) at 503-947-5841.

If you have additional questions regarding the OAKS Extended Writing Assessment, please contact [Brad Lenhardt](#) at 503-947-5755.