

## **Executive Numbered Memo 014-2008-09 - Adoption of Additional Standardized Assessment Options for Demonstrating Proficiency in the Essential Skills of Reading and Applying Mathematics**

May 21, 2009

**TO:** Superintendents and District Testing Coordinators

**RE:** Adoption of additional standardized assessment options for demonstrating proficiency in the Essential Skills of Reading and Applying Mathematics

On May 14, 2009, the State Board of Education adopted achievement levels (“cut scores”) for tests which may be used by students to demonstrate their proficiency in the essential skills of Reading and Applying Mathematics. [Click here](#) for a table that lists the tests and adopted scores.

Students in the Class of 2012 and beyond are required to demonstrate proficiency in essentials skills as part of attaining an Oregon Diploma.

The adopted scores represent a rigorous standard similar to the level of achievement required to earn a score of 236 on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) tests. The scores were recommended by the Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel (AESRP), a group appointed by Superintendent Susan Castillo to advise the Department of Education and the State Board on issues related to the essential skills.

The Board emphasized that while the adopted scores are rigorous, they are not to be considered as maximum expectations. Instead, they are minimum standards that will open a variety of postsecondary opportunities for Oregon high school graduates, including colleges and universities, community colleges, trade and apprenticeship schools, and employment.

Although districts are not required to offer all of the standardized testing options approved by the State Board, the Department of Education encourages districts to make as many of these additional test options available to their students as possible. Partnering with other institutions in providing test opportunities can help expand these testing options. Many of the selected tests are scheduled regularly by colleges and community colleges around the state.

It is possible that a student may choose a State Board-approved testing option that his or her district does not offer in order to meet an essential skills requirement. If the student achieves the minimum cut score on the standardized assessment and there is sufficient documentation that the student completed the tests consistent with the requirements of the respective test publishers, the district should accept the results.

ODE staff is continuing its collaboration with the College Board to review additional assessment options. The AESRP will utilize this work to draft additional test and achievement level recommendations, with plans to present them to the State Board in the fall. ODE and the AESRP are also continuing to develop criteria for local assessment options that students may use to demonstrate their proficiency in the essential skills.

In addition to the standardized tests listed in the table above, students may demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills by completing work samples which are then scored by the school or district using Official Scoring Guides. Information on work samples may be found on the [Essential Skills website](#).