

As ODE prepares to transition from the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the National Center and State Alternate Assessment Collaborative (NCSC) assessments for accountability purposes, it must also consider how best to manage this transition for purposes of the Essential Skills graduation requirement.

The assessment option that most students will use to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills is the OAKS or, for students on IEPs seeking a modified diploma, OAKS Extended. It is likely that the Smarter Balanced and NCSC achievement standards implemented for accountability purposes will be more rigorous than those currently in place for the OAKS and OAKS Extended, respectively. To ease the transition for students and families from OAKS, or OAKS Extended, to Smarter, or NCSC, ODE must prepare to:

- Continue to provide OAKS through 2013-14, assessing students on content that aligns to Oregon's 2002 Reading Content Standards and the 2007/2009 Mathematics Content Standards. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will be assessed by the Smarter Balanced assessment starting in 2014-15.
- Continue to provide OAKS Extended through 2014-15, assessing students on content that is linked to Oregon's 2002 Reading Content Standards and the 2007/2009 Mathematics Content Standards. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will be assessed by the NCSC assessment starting in 2015-16.
- Phase the OAKS **out** as an Essential Skills assessment option, replaced by the Smarter Balanced assessment. The Smarter Balanced assessment is scheduled to first be used operationally during the 2014-15 school year.
- Phase the OAKS Extended **out** as an Essential Skills assessment option, replaced by the NCSC assessment. The NCSC assessment is scheduled to be used operationally during the 2015-16 school year.
- Prepare to do a scale linking study as part of the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced field test to identify the achievement standard, or "cut score," that is comparable in rigor to the current OAKS achievement standard.
- Prepare to do a scale linking study in 2014-15 to identify a NCSC achievement standard that is comparable in rigor to the current OAKS Extended achievement standard.

Identification of Interim Smarter Achievement Standard

Staff proposes identifying a Smarter Balanced cut score comparable with the current OAKS achievement standard that will be sufficient for students in the 2011-2012 through 2014-2015 cohorts. ODE will identify these achievement standards by conducting an alignment study based on results from the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced field test, as stated above. This would satisfy the adequate notice requirement described in Section 14(b) of OAR 581-022-0615:

- (a) Students may demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills using assessment options adopted in their ninth through twelfth grade years.
- (b) Students may use achievement standards adopted in their 9th through 12th grade years that are equal to or lower than the achievement standards approved as of March 1 of the students' 8th grade year.

Under OAR 581-022-0615 section 14(b), students may not be held to higher achievement standards without receiving notice by March 1 of the impacted cohort's eighth grade year. With the Smarter Balanced assessment scheduled to be used operationally for the first time in 2014-15, this means the earliest that Smarter Balanced achievement standards higher than the current OAKS achievement standards could be used for purposes of the Essential Skills graduation requirement would be for the 2015-16 cohort (anticipated to graduate in spring 2019).

Identification of Interim NCSC Achievement Standard

Similarly, staff proposes identifying an NCSC cut score comparable with the current OAKS Extended achievement standard that will be sufficient for students in the 2012-2013 through 2015-2016 cohorts. ODE will identify these achievement standards by conducting a linking study based on results from the 2014-15 NCSC field test. This would satisfy the notice requirement described in Section 14(b) of OAR 581-022-0615. Under OAR 581-022-0615 section 14(b), students may not be held to higher achievement standards without receiving notice by March 1 of the impacted cohort's eighth grade year. With the NCSC assessment scheduled to be used operationally for the first time in 2015-16, this means the earliest that NCSC achievement standards higher than the current OAKS Extended achievement standards could be used for purposes of the Essential Skills graduation requirement would be for the 2016-17 cohort (anticipated to graduate in spring 2020).