

**Oregon Department of Education
Responses to 2015 Ways and Means Information Requests
5-6-15**

From the May 6, 2015 meeting of the Education Subcommittee:

1. Prior to 1995, what assessments were administered and how were the results used to assess students' knowledge? (Representative Sprenger)

RESPONSE:

Oregon Statewide Assessment 1994 and Earlier

Year	What was assessed	Grade(s)	Sample or census	How Results Used*					
				PES	PED	SA	DA	PR	SI
1994	R, M, W	3, 5, 8, 11	Census	x	x	x	x	x	x
1993	R, M, W**	3, 5, 8, 11	Census	x	x	x	x	x	x
1992	R, M, W**	3, 5, 8, 11	Census	x	x	x	x	x	x
1991	R, M, W	3, 5, 8, 11	Census	x	x	x	x	x	x
1989	R, M, W	8	Sample	x					x
1987	R, M, W	8	Sample	x					x
1985	R, M, W	8	Sample	x					x
1982	R, M, W	4, 7, 11	Sample	x					x

R=Reading, M=Math, W=Writing

*PES = Program evaluation at school level

PED = Program evaluation at district level

SA = School accountability

DA = District accountability

PR = Parent/student report (Note: student reports related to performance standards began in 1996)

SI = Statewide information for policymakers

**Writing assessment suspended due to budget shortfall

2. Are there guidelines available for teachers on how to share assessment results with students and parents? (Representative Taylor)

RESPONSE: Resources include fact sheets, infographics, FAQs, and myths-vs-facts documents that can be used for local conversations with students, parents, school boards, and other interested community members. In addition, there is a parent notification letter and a Smarter Balanced overview in Powerpoint format that can be customized for local use. Most of these resources are provided in both English and Spanish. Please go to: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4302> to see communication resources in detail.

We've also created communications resources to help explain how the transition from the former state test (OAKS) to Smarter Balanced will impact Essential Skills graduation policies. Below you'll find links to an Essential Skills Teacher Handout, which gives teachers the talking points they'll need to discuss this issue with students. The second link takes you to the Essential Skills Parent FAQ, which explains the transition in a non-technical fashion to help reduce anxiety and provide accurate information about the impact on graduation policies.

Essential Skills Teacher Handout (attached)

http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/es_teacher_handout_1415_gradrequirements.pdf

Essential Skills Parent FAQ (attached)

http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/es_parent_faq_1415_gradrequirements.pdf

Essential Skills

Parent FAQ: 2014-15 Graduation Requirements

Oregon's Transition to Smarter Balanced Assessments:

With Oregon's transition from OAKS to the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts/literacy and math come questions regarding how new state tests may impact students' ability to satisfy graduation requirements. This FAQ includes answers to commonly asked questions pertaining to graduation in light of this transition. Please visit our *Testing and Accountability* tab on our website at www.ode.state.or.us for additional information.

1. Does this new test mean that graduation is more difficult?

No. Graduation expectations remain consistent as in previous years. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Education is offering avenues to ensure our transition to new state tests does not negatively impact students. If your child is a junior this year, he/she will take Smarter Balanced and may satisfy Essential Skills graduation requirements by achieving a score that is equal to or higher than the score initially required to pass OAKS in previous years. This score will be lower than the Level 3 "college- and career-ready" score. If your child is a senior this year, he/she will have the option to satisfy Essential Skills graduation requirements by passing the OAKS tests in Reading, Writing, and Math.

2. What is the score a student must achieve on Smarter Balanced to meet graduation requirements?

This has not been determined yet. The Oregon Department of Education will use Smarter Balanced test results to establish an equivalent score between the new Smarter Balanced tests and our previous OAKS tests. This score will represent what a student needs to earn on Smarter Balanced to demonstrate that they have mastered the Essential Skills graduation requirements for our state, and will be established by Fall 2015—after students receive their Smarter Balanced test scores. The delay between when students receive their Smarter Balanced test scores and when the Essential Skills passing score is determined is to ensure the most up-to-date and accurate data is used to establish a score that reflects appropriate and fair expectations of student performance on our new state tests.

3. If a student does not "pass" the Smarter Balanced assessments, can they still graduate?

Yes. State tests in English and math are just one option students can use to meet graduation requirements. As in prior years, students can demonstrate that they have mastered the Essential Skills on an assessment from one of these approved categories:

- i. **Statewide Assessment** (Smarter Balanced assessments)
- ii. **Other Assessments** (visit [ODE Essential Skills](#)* for a full list of approved options)
- iii. **Work Samples** (locally administered and scored)

Please check in with your school to talk about where your child is at in meeting graduation requirements and which options are available to your child this school year.

4. Can Smarter Balanced scores be used for college placement?

Yes. For at least the next two years, Oregon's 17 community colleges and 7 universities may choose to waive additional placement testing for entering students if they score a 3 or higher on Smarter Balanced tests and meet requirements for continued academic rigor during grade 12. Learn more [here](#).**

*<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2042>

**<http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/?u=4594642efda13a6f682ce6914&id=e1d77a2415&e=c49bbfd968%20-%20Article%202>

Essential Skills

Teacher Handout: 2014-15 Graduation Requirements

Oregon’s Transition to Smarter Balanced Assessments:

With Oregon’s transition from OAKS to the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts/literacy and math come questions regarding how new state tests may impact students’ ability to satisfy graduation requirements and what test scores mean for students applying for postsecondary opportunities. This handout clarifies important points to communicate with students and their parents during this transition, and can be used in tandem with the Essential Skills Parent FAQ available at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2042>.

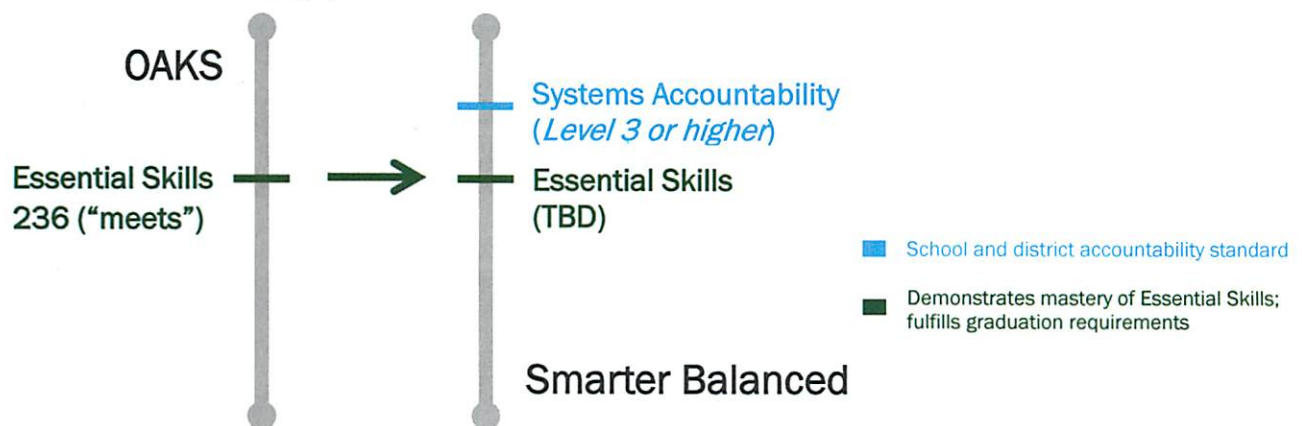
Talking Points

Students have options:

As always, students will still have a variety of assessment options to demonstrate their mastery of the reading, writing, and math Essential Skills, including state tests, other approved assessments, and work samples.

Graduation expectations have not changed:

While the Smarter Balanced assessments are more challenging than our previous state tests, students taking these new tests will only need to achieve a score that is equal to or higher than the “meets” score on our previous state tests. This score will be lower than the Level 3 “college- and career-ready” score reported on the School and District Report Card and linked to college placement.



The score on Smarter Balanced needed to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirements has not been determined yet:

The Essential Skills passing score (equal to “meets” on our previous state tests) will not be determined until Fall 2015. This means students will not know whether or not they have “met” graduation requirements when they first receive their Smarter Balanced scores. It is important to communicate that this is a natural part of the test development process and, by waiting, the Oregon Department of Education will have the information needed to make an accurate and fair decision regarding expectations for student performance.

Smarter Balanced test scores are linked to placement in Oregon community colleges and universities:

*For at least the next two years, Oregon’s 17 community colleges and 7 universities may choose to waive additional placement testing for entering students if they score a 3 or higher on Smarter Balanced tests and meet requirements for continued academic rigor during grade 12.**

*Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) news announcement: <http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/?u=4594642efda13a6f682ce6914&id=e1d77a2415&e=c49bbfd968%20-%20Article%202>