

# Essential Skills Overview

# What are the Essential Skills?

*... proficiencies students should be developing across grades K- 12.*

- **Read** and comprehend a variety of text
- **Write** clearly and accurately
- **Apply mathematics** in a variety of settings
- **Listen** actively and **speak** clearly and coherently
- **Think critically** and **analytically**
- Use **technology** to learn, live, and work
- Demonstrate **civic** and **community engagement**
- Demonstrate **global literacy**
- Demonstrate **personal management** and **teamwork** skills

## Are they another set of content standards?

*...no, they are proficiencies that are embedded within the content standards.*

Content Standards	Essential Skill Proficiencies
Guides curriculum development	Describes outcomes of educational experiences
Describes what students should learn each year	Describes what students should be able to do by the time they graduate

# Why do we have the Essential Skills?

*... to make the diploma meaningful.*

## The Essential Skills were developed:

- ❑ As a part of the New Oregon Diploma
- ❑ By the Essential Skills Task Force:
  - Educators ● Post-secondary connections ● ODE
  - Legislators ● Business community ● State Board

*See also:*

### **OAR 581-22-0615: Assessment of Essential Skills**

[http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_500/oar\\_581/581\\_022.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_500/oar_581/581_022.html)

### **Essential Skills Task Force**

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/real/diploma/diplomaTaskForce.aspx?section=skills>

# What is the Essential Skills graduation requirement?

*Based on the year the student first enrolled in grade 9 (cohort year), the student must demonstrate proficiency in each of the required Essential Skills by meeting the achievement level on one of the approved assessments options.*

Cohort Year	1. Read	2. Write	3. Apply Math
2008-2009	Required		
2009-2010	Required	Required	
2010-2011 and beyond	Required	Required	Required

# What are the approved assessments for the Essential Skills Graduation requirement?

*...there are three categories of approved assessments.*

Approved Assessment Categories	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Statewide Assessment
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Other Assessments
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Work Samples

There is also a 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Category – Local Assessment– described in Appendix K of the Test Administration Manual that was used by fewer than 100 students statewide.

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=486>

# 1st Category: Statewide Assessment

## *Assessment Option and Achievement Standards*

Academic Year	Assessment Option	Read	Write	Apply Math
2013-2014	OAKS	236	40	236
2014-beyond	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced field test results will be used to establish a Smarter Balanced achievement standard that represents an equivalent level of rigor to the current OAKS achievement standard.		

If the State Board decides to increase the rigor (set a higher achievement standard), adequate notice is required. Adequate notice is defined as: *before March 1st of the cohort's 8th grade year.*

# 2nd Category: Other Assessments

## *Assessment Options and Achievement Standards*

Assessment Option	Read	Write	Apply Math
ACT	18	19*	19
Plan	18	N/A	19
WorkKeys	5	N/A	5
Compass	81	N/A	66 (Int Alg)
Asset	42	N/A	41 (Int Alg)
SAT	440	460*	450
PSAT	44	N/A	45
AP/IB	Various	N/A	Various
Accuplacer	86	N/A	N/A

*\*Based on the composite score derived from both the selected response and direct-writing portions of the test. The SAT refers to this as the Writing section of the SAT. The ACT refers to this as the combined English/Writing test.*



# 3rd Category: Work Samples

## *Assessment Options and Achievement Standards*

	Read	Write	Apply Math
Number of Work Samples	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of which must be informational</li> </ul>	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One must be expository or persuasive</li> <li>One in any of the approved modes (expository, persuasive, narrative)</li> </ul>	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One each for any two of the required content strands (algebra, geometry, or statistics)</li> </ul>
Score Categories	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate General Understanding</li> <li>Develop an Interpretation</li> <li>Analyze Text</li> </ul>	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas/ Content</li> <li>Organization</li> <li>Sentence Fluency</li> <li>Conventions</li> </ul>	Process Dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making Sense of the Task Representing and Solving the Task</li> <li>Communicating Reasoning</li> <li>Accuracy</li> <li>Reflecting and Evaluating</li> </ul>
Work Sample Score Requirement	Minimum score of 12, with no Trait lower than 3.	Minimum score of 4 in all Traits.	Minimum score of 4 in all Process Dimensions.

# 3rd Category: Work Samples

## *Basic overview*

Work Samples are performance assessments that are developed, administered, and scored at the local level.

Work Samples include open-ended prompt(s), are aligned to grade-level content standards, and are scored with the official state scoring guides.

Work samples must meet the level of rigor required on the OAKS assessment.

## What data is reported?

*The Essential Skills Report includes data for the following two questions.*

What % of students used each of the assessment categories?

For students who used assessments other than the statewide assessment, what % scored in each achievement level on the statewide assessment?

The Essential Skills Report is published along with the Graduation Report and Dropout Report on January 30th each year.

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?=8848>

# Essential Skills Data Reported

Of all the students who met the graduation requirements, what % used each of the assessment categories?

Assessment Category	
Oregon Statewide Assessment	%
Other Assessment	%
Work Samples	%
Local Assessment	%

- Separate table for each Essential Skill
- Reported for total cohort and subgroups
- State- and district-level data reported
- Vertically totals 100%

# Essential Skills Data Reported

Of all students who used assessments other than the statewide assessment, what % scored in each achievement level on the statewide assessment?

Meet/Exceed	Nearly Met	Low/Very Low	No Score
%	%	%	%

- Separate table for each Essential Skill
- Reported for total cohort and subgroups
- State-level data reported
- Horizontally totals 100%

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