

Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel

Draft Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 8, 2010

Panel Members Present: Art Anderson, Marcia Arganbright, Javier Ayala, Walt Blomberg, Ralph Brown, Allan Bruner, Kelly Carlisle, Jim Conaghan, Laurie Glazener, Dee Hahn, Kathy Hall, Susan Iversen, Jana Iverson, Amy McQueen, Kehaulani Minzghor, Kris Olsen, Ken Peterson, Bob Rayborn, Linda Samek, Jackie Burr, Steve Slater.

Facilitating: Barbara Wolfe

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes:

Members introduced themselves and Barbara reviewed the agenda and plan for the meeting. Minutes from the Oct 1 & 2, 2009 meeting were approved. In addition, the panel approved minutes from the previous year for Nov 13 and April 9 for which there were no records of previous approvals.

II. Brief Report on State Board adoption of ELL policy for Assessments of Essential Skills & next steps by ODE and for districts

Barbara gave a brief overview of the State Board adoption of the policy for English Language Learners which was a major policy effort of this group last year. The State Board now requires districts to have a policy to allow students who are part of a sub-group of ELL students to complete reading and writing essential skill proficiencies in their home language. In order to access this opportunity, students must have been in US schools for 5 years or less and attained a score of 3 or higher on the high school ELPA assessment.

III. Request to add Accuplacer to the list of approved assessments for reading and math essential skills

Steve Slater led a discussion on the possibility of adding the College Board's college course placement assessment, Accuplacer, to the list of tests recommended by AESRP for the State Board to approve. Requests have come from several sources, including the deans and vice presidents of instruction at the 17 Oregon community colleges via Javier Ayala. The group discussed several issues, including whether Accuplacer will match the content sufficiently and the potential to create a list that is too long or puts too much pressure on districts to provide different opportunities. Barbara reiterated that districts are not required to provide any of the alternate assessments, but must accept them as proof of proficiency if students provide an official score report that meets the requirement.

Motion: Bob Rayborn moved and Allan Bruner seconded that AESRP requests ODE work with the College Board to determine whether the Accuplacer test is appropriate to be added to the list of approved standardized tests for demonstrating proficiency on the Essential Skills, and if so, to begin procedures to identify a cut score that is comparable to the 236 on the OAKS assessments for reading and mathematics. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion of approach to identifying additional test options for the Essential Skill of Writing – need recommendation from AESRP for ODE to pursue

The group discussed the current status of assessments for the essential skill of writing, which include the OAKS assessment and local work samples. The general consensus was that additional options

should be identified and studied to see whether comparable scores can be identified so some options could be recommended to the State Board.

During the discussion, several members raised the importance of looking only at assessments that require a direct writing assessment. Several people mentioned the SAT Writing, a writing option with ACT, the AP English Composition test, and a writing assessment connected with Compass.

Motion: Bob Rayborn moved and Allan Bruner seconded that AESRP will look only at assessments that use a direct writing approach as options for students to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skill of Writing. The motion passed with one vote in opposition.

V. Update on status of Assessment of Essential Skills Toolkit

Barbara thanked the panel for the input provided on the Assessment of Essential Skills Toolkit. Revisions are underway, and panelists may be asked to review further sections. The target is to have a working model to share with districts in February.

VI. Discussion of future essential skills: Should AESRP make a recommendation to the State Board?

The panel discussed the issue of a timeline for further essential skills to be added to the current essential skills for graduation requirements. If the State Board wanted to add an additional essential skill for the Class of 2015, that decision would need to be made at their March 2010 meeting.

Panel members indicated that in their previous discussion (Dec 8, 2008) about the sequence and timeline for adding essential skill requirements, the group felt strongly that to have different requirements for each graduating class creates additional record-keeping problems.

The group agreed by consensus that they would not recommend any additional essential skills be added for the Class of 2015, which would mean that students in the Classes of 2014 and 2015 would be required to meet essential skills in reading, writing and applying mathematics. Members felt that districts would benefit from the additional year of stability to assure that all procedures are in place for success.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 8, 2010.

The next meeting of AESRP is scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2010. It will be a Web-EX meeting. Details about the agenda and time for the meeting will be distributed closer to the meeting date.