

Essential Skills



How do students meet the graduation requirements?

Students prove that they have mastered these Essential Skills by earning at or above an achievement standard on an assessment from one of the approved categories within their district.

2015-16 Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual

The Essential Skills graduation requirements are governed by the *Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual*, which is available for download at:

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

Oregon's Statewide Assessment

All students will have one opportunity in grade 11 to complete the Smarter Balanced assessments. In 2015-2016, the grade 12 test opportunity for Smarter Balanced will only be available for students who have not yet met the Essential Skills achievement standard. Each eligible student has one assessment opportunity for the grade 12 administration of Smarter Balanced.

For information about the administration of Oregon's statewide assessments, refer to the *Test Administration Manual* at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/tam>. Accessibility supports for the statewide assessment are governed by the *Oregon Administrative Manual* available for download at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=487>.

Assessment	Reading Essential Skill	Writing Essential Skill	Math Essential Skill
OAKS ¹	236	40	236
Smarter Balanced	Reading claim score: 2515	Writing claim score: 2583	Math composite score: 2543

¹ Starting 2015-16, OAKS Reading, Writing, and Mathematics are no longer operational; banked scores from earlier administrations may still be used, though, as evidence of proficiency in the Essential Skills.

Other Standardized Assessments

There are numerous standardized assessments that have been approved by the State Board and that may be offered by districts and/or independently accessed by students.

Accessibility supports for the other standardized assessments are governed by test developer. Students may use any accessibility supports available as a part of a standard administration of the assessment, i.e., an administration of the assessment that produces a standard score report.

Legend	
No approved assessment	
Assessment is in transition	

Assessment	Reading Essential Skill	Writing Essential Skill	Math Essential Skill
ACT	18	19 (administered prior to September, 2015) ²	19
Accuplacer	86 ³	N/A	N/A
AP (Math Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics • Calculus AB • Calculus BC 	N/A	N/A	3
AP (Reading Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European History • English Literature & Composition • Macroeconomics • Microeconomics • Psychology • United States History • World History • United States Government & Politics 	3	N/A	N/A

² This score is derived from the combining the English and Writing portions of the test (75 selected response questions and a timed, 30-minute essay). Approved only for assessments administered prior to September 2015; the revised ACT, which is operational in September, 2015, has not yet been approved.

³ This score is derived from Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Placement test.

Assessment	Reading Essential Skill	Writing Essential Skill	Math Essential Skill
• Comparative Government & Politics			
Asset	42	N/A	41 (Int Alg)
Compass⁴	81	N/A	66 (Int Alg) ⁵
IB (Math Exams) • Mathematics SL • Mathematics HL • Math Studies	N/A	N/A	4
IB (Reading Exams) • English Language • History of Americas • History of Europe • 20th Century Topics • Economics • Psychology • Social Anthropology	4	N/A	N/A
Plan⁶	18	N/A	19
PSAT (administered prior to October, 2015)⁷	44	N/A	45
SAT(administered prior to March, 2016)⁸	440	460 ⁹	450
WorkKeys¹⁰	5	N/A	5

⁴ Compass test will be phased out during 2016 and no longer operational by December 31st 2016.

⁵ The Compass exam includes five placement tests: Numerical Skills/Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry. The assessment option that is approved for the Essential Skills is referring to the Algebra placement test.

⁶ Banked scores still allowed, but assessment no longer available for purchase after June 2014.

⁷ Approved only for assessments administered prior to October 2015; the revised PSAT, which is operational in October, 2015, has not yet been approved.

⁸ Approved only for assessments administered prior to March 2016; the revised SAT, which is operational in March, 2016, has not yet been approved.

⁹ SAT Writing refers to the Writing section of the SAT (49 selected response questions and a timed, 25-minute essay). Approved only for assessments administered prior to March 2016; the revised SAT, which is operational in March, 2016, has not yet been approved.

¹⁰ To satisfy the Reading Essential Skills requirements, a student must earn a 5 or better on the WorkKeys “Reading for Information,” assessment. To satisfy the Mathematics Essential Skills requirements, a student must earn a 5 or better on the WorkKeys “Applied Mathematics” assessment. A student who earns a Gold or Platinum level on his or her National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) will have demonstrated proficiency in the Mathematics and Reading Essential Skills.

Work Samples

Work Samples are comprised of a prompt that students respond to and the student work produced in response to the prompt. Work Samples are scored against the official state scoring guides.

Should districts choose to offer Work Samples as an Essential Skill assessment option, districts must follow the requirements described in the *Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual*¹¹. Within the *Manual*, Work Sample development, administration, and scoring are described in the *Assessment Category 3: Work Samples* section. Accessibility supports for Work Samples are governed by *Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual Appendix A: Accessibility Supports for Work Samples*, which lists Work Sample accessibility supports that are allowable for a Regular Diploma.

Assessment	Reading Essential Skill	Writing Essential Skill	Math Essential Skill
Number of Work Samples	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of which must be informational 	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One must be expository or persuasive One in any of the approved modes (expository, persuasive, narrative) 	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One each for any two of the required content strands (algebra, geometry, or statistics)
Score Categories	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate General Understanding Develop an Interpretation Analyze Text 	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas/Content Organization Sentence Fluency Conventions 	Process Dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Sense of the Task Representing and Solving the Task Communicating Reasoning Accuracy Reflecting and Evaluating
Work Sample Score Requirement	The three trait scores add up to a total score of at least 12, with no individual trait score less than a “3.”	Minimum score of 4 in all Traits.	Minimum score of 4 in all Process Dimensions.

¹¹ Available for download at:
http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/es_localperformanceasmt_manual.pdf

Where do I find additional information?

For general information, please visit the *Essential Skills Home* page:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2042>.

For policy-related information, please visit the *Essential Skills District Policy Resources* page: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3963>.

For information about specific Essential Skills, please visit the appropriate page:

- Reading: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2703>;
- Writing: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2704>; or
- Mathematics: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2707>.