

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S Pipeline

July 2000

IN THIS ISSUE

State Test Results

Funds Approved for
New Testing Program

Statewide Assessment
Schedule

Schedule for Additional
Assessment Reports

ESD Task Force
Regional Meetings



From My Desk to Yours

A Message from Stan Bunn
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



It was a real pleasure for me to release the 2000 test results—both because the results themselves contain good news, and because this is the earliest test scores have been available since statewide assessment started. Our goal is to provide information to schools in a more timely way, and I believe you will find the test results useful as you plan for next school year. You can access the results directly on our web site at www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/results/index.htm.

Let's focus on the results themselves. Statewide, the percent of students meeting the standards continues to increase at almost every grade in every subject from 1999 to 2000. In addition, in several areas students are not only moving from "Does Not Yet Meet" to "Meets," but there is also a substantial movement from "Meets" to "Exceeds." This is cause for real celebration as students and teachers work to reach our high state standards.

Further evidence of the effectiveness of Oregon schools and of the focus of school reform on rigorous academic standards is seen in a 10-year view. Over the past decade, the percent of students meeting the standards has increased at every grade in reading/literature and mathematics. In several instances, the growth is quite dramatic—with third graders gaining 30% in reading and 40% in math, while other grade levels gained from 6% to 24%.

One additional piece of good news is that we have begun to trace the performance of various cohort groups as they move through the system. Test scores are showing that the encouraging achievement levels at the early grades continue on to upper elementary, middle school and high school. In classrooms, teachers tell us that students coming up through the system are better prepared in both content and in their approach to challenging work.

I hope as you read the summary of the results in this issue of the Pipeline, and as you have an opportunity to review your own district and school-level results more closely, you will feel renewed and energized by the promise that our system holds for all students. We have accomplished a great deal, and we will continue to work with you to pursue success for every student.

I hope the summer hiatus will include some time for personal renewal and relaxation for each of you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stan Bunn.

Stan Bunn

Oregon Department of Education

State Test Results

State test results for reading, writing, mathematics and math problem solving were released by Supt. Stan Bunn at a press conference on June 29. This was the earliest release of test information since the program began in 1991. Results for science and for 10th grade writing and math problem solving will be released later this summer.

Some highlights of the test results were as follows:

1. The percent of students meeting the standards improved from 1999 levels in most subjects tested. Mathematics (multiple choice) was a particular stand-out because students improved substantially at all four grade levels.

Scores improved at nearly every grade in multiple choice reading/literature and mathematics tests. The one grade with a loss was 10th grade reading, and that loss was only 1 percent after a prior gain of 4 percent. Forty percent of 10th graders met the math standard, a 5% increase in 2 years.

Fifth graders posted a 5 percent increase on the math problem solving tests. Third graders had 86 percent meeting the writing standards while 8th graders held steady in math problem solving and were down 2 percent in writing.

2. In addition to decreasing the number of student who Do Not Yet Meet the standards, the percent of students who Exceed the standards has increased in

most grades and subjects. For example, 82% of third graders and 64% of 8th graders exceed the standards on the reading/literature tests.

3. Looking back over a decade of school reform in Oregon shows remarkable academic growth in reading, mathematics and writing. In every area, the percent of students meeting the standards increased from the 1991 test levels. Furthermore, from 1996 forward, when the performance standards were set, student achievement has been on a steady upward climb.

4. As students move through the school system from elementary grades on to middle school and to high school, the higher achievement levels continue with them. This effect is beginning to show up in test score increases at middle and high school levels. The 78% of third graders who met the standard for reading two years ago maintained a 73% pass rate as 5th graders. The 59% of 5th graders who met the math standards in 1997, made up a group of 56% meeting the standard as 8th graders.

The overall message is clear: School reform is working well in Oregon; students are learning and meeting challenging standards in their academic efforts. Educators have cause to celebrate these results, knowing that they have made an important difference for students.

ESD Task Force to Hold Regional Hearings

The ESD Task Force, created by the 1999 Legislature to examine the role of the ESDs, has developed a series of recommendations and will gather input at a series of public hearings to be held in late July.

The recommendations themselves, focusing largely around the role of ESDs, consolidation of some ESDs, and funding issues, can be accessed on the Department of Education web site at www.ode.state.or.us.

The public hearings, located in regions where consolidations are being recommended, are listed in the schedule below. Specific information about location and time of the hearings listed as TBA (to be announced) can be obtained by contacting the ESD.

The contact person working with the ESD Task Force is Bob Burns, retired Deputy Superintendent from the Department. Bob can be reached at bob.burns@state.or.us or at 503-378-3573 ext. 536.

Hearing Schedule

JULY 20 9:00 a.m.	Yamhill ESD Office 2045 SW Hwy 18 McMinnville
JULY 20 3:00 p.m.	Jefferson ESD Jefferson Co Middle School 1180 SE City View Madras
JULY 25 9:00 a.m.	Lake ESD *TBA
JULY 25 3:00 p.m.	Harney ESD *TBA
JULY 26 9:00 a.m.	Grant ESD Office 835-A S Canyon Blvd John Day
JULY 26 3:30 p.m.	Wallowa ESD Office 107 SW First Enterprise
JULY 27 11:00 a.m.	North Central ESD 221 S Oregon Street Gilliam County Court House Condon



2000-01 Statewide Assessment Schedule

Dates have been established for statewide test administration next school year. Schools will be able to select among several testing opportunities for sophomores.

Tests for 10th graders or retests for students in grades 11 and 12 who have not yet met the standards for reading/literature, mathematics, and science will be Jan. 6–27, 2001.

Writing and mathematics problem solving tests will be administered at grades 5, 8, and 10, Jan. 20–Feb. 10, 2001. Students in grades 11 and 12 who need to retest in these subjects may also take the tests at this time.

Reading/literature and mathematics tests for grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 and science tests at grades 8, and 10 will occur Mar. 28–April 21, 2001. Students in grades 11 and 12 who

need to retest in these subjects may also take the tests at this time

Writing and mathematics problem solving tests for students in grade 10 who have not yet taken these tests or for students in grades 11 and 12 who need to retest will be April 28–May 12. Test results for these assessments will not be available until mid to late summer.

Schools with year-round calendars or other needs may submit a request to the Office of Assessment and Evaluation by Nov. 1, 2000 to test students outside of the regular testing window.

\$3.5 Million Approved for New Testing Program

The Legislative Emergency Board, at their June meeting, unanimously approved the Department's request for \$3.5 million to fund Phase 1 of a new approach to testing.

The Technology Enhanced Student Assessment program will establish a computerized adaptive approach to tests, where students can take statewide assessments in reading and mathematics on a computer in their school that is linked through the Internet to the Department. The program will produce easier or more difficult questions based on the student's correct or incorrect responses. In that way, each student takes an individualized test. At the conclusion of the test, the computer calculates the student's score on the state scale and provides sub-score information which is useful in planning next steps for instruction.

Phase 1 will involve about 30 schools next year in trying out the system. Future plans would expand to 600 schools in the 2001-03 biennium, and all schools by the following biennium.

For additional information contact, Bob Olsen, Assessment Specialist, at bob.olsen@state.or.us or at 503-378-3534 ext. 334

Schedule for Additional Assessment Reports

Districts received their summary and participation reports for all grades in reading/literature and mathematics tests on June 27. They also received reports for grades 3, 5, and 8 writing and for grades 5 and 8 mathematics problem solving at the same time.

Remaining reports will roll-out on the schedule below. District test coordinators and superintendents will be notified when reports are posted on the web.

Late July to early August

- summary and participation reports for grades 5, 8, 10 science;
- individual student reports, summary and participation reports for grade 10 writing and math problem solving;
- grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 reading/literature and mathematics comparison groups, survey reports, and three-year summary reports

Late August

- sub-group performance reports all subjects and grades;
- sub-group reports for all subjects and grades;
- new special education group reports for all subjects and grades
- grade 10 writing and mathematics problem solving comparison groups, survey reports and three-year summary reports

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please contact Barbara Wolfe, communications team, at ode.pipeline@state.or.us or (503) 378-3573 ext. 553