

SED Update October 2012

Graduation and Credentials

Students who first enter grade nine in September 2009 and thereafter who complete all course work and testing [requirements](#) for the Regents diploma with advanced designation in mathematics and/or science, and who pass, with a score of 85 or better, three commencement level Regents examinations in mathematics and/or three commencement level Regents examinations in science, will earn a Regents diploma with advanced designation, with an annotation on the diploma that denotes mastery in mathematics and/or science, as applicable.

Assessment

Testing Guides are being prepared for *each* grade and subject for 3-8 ELA and math. The guides will include the typical information as well as item maps that are tied to the CCLS as well as the rubrics for extended response items. This should come out by the end of the month.

Speaking and listening will no longer be included in the new versions of the 3-8 ELA assessments because the way it had been done previously was not aligned to the Standards. Guidance and sample rubrics for speaking, listening, presenting, and viewing will eventually be distributed (but not soon) because this still important. The exclusion of this from the assessments doesn't mean that these skills are unimportant. Rather, they are very important. The inauthentic nature of standardized testing makes it problematic to assess.

The rules for passage selection have changed. They are going to use more authentic text in the future, not avoiding, for example, works from Mark Twain and Richard Wright that they previously avoided. There are [guidelines for passage selection](#) which can be reviewed.

Plans are being made to provide training in the new assessments, including their scoring. Training will be provided to the Network Team in late January or early February who will, in turn, train the field.

Don't forget the [calculator and ruler rules](#) for the 2013 math tests:

- Grades 3-8 students must have the use of a ruler for the entire test.
- Grades 4-8 students must have the use of a protractor for the entire test.
- Grades 3-5 students will not have the use of calculators.
- Grade 6 students must have the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator for the entire test. (Schools may choose which type they purchase.)
- Grades 7 & 8 students must have the use of a scientific calculator for the entire test.

Education Data Portal Implementation Update

The State is proceeding with the parent access part of the new unified data portal. Although they have received some negative feedback about having to support a parent portal that might be redundant to a district's portal, they are proceeding. In the past, the data linkages that have been emphasized have not included parent to student linkage. There will have to be a process, rolled out in the spring, through which parents sign up for access in anticipation of the portal going live for the 2013-2014 school year. The process will have to be FERPA-compliant, so it looks like the district and/or school will have to be involved in the process. It is likely that the last step in the student to parent linkage verification process will require the school to somehow "hand" a PIN to the parent to ensure that the "right" person gets access. A memo to the field is due out soon.

Safety Net

The Board of Regents is poised to adopt, by emergency action, [changes to the safety net](#) (45-54 with conditions). This would go into effect this year.