

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School and College Preparation | Math & Science | Effective Workforce

Title:	Standard Setting Process for End of Course Biology Assessment	
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Relevant To Board Roles:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
Policy Considerations / Key Questions:	<p>RCW 28A.305.130 requires SBE to "identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the standard on the statewide assessment . . . [and to] determine student scores that identify levels of student performance below and beyond standard." It also requires SBE to "annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique populations of students."</p> <p>Parallel to the process established last year regarding the cut scores for the End of Course exams in mathematics, at this meeting SBE will review/approve the OSPI- proposed <i>process</i> for setting the End of Course Biology exam cut scores. The cut scores themselves will be reviewed by SBE in August after the cut-score setting process is complete.</p>	
Possible Board Action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Materials Included in Packet:	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	
Synopsis:	Cinda Parton, OSPI Assessment staff, and Dr. Tom Hirsch, an OSPI contractor, will provide an explanation of the OSPI- proposed process for setting the Biology cut scores for Board review/approval.	

Standard Setting for the Biology End-of-Course (EOC) Exam

Background

The 2009 Science Learning Standards will be assessed on the 2012 Biology End-of-Course exam. Standard setting panels will be convened to make a recommendation for the cut scores on these tests.

OSPI will present the plan for conducting the standard setting process in 2012 for the Board's approval. Standard setting panels were convened in the summer of 2011 to make recommendations to the Board on the cut scores for the Science Measurements of Student Progress in grades 5 and 8 and for the Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 and Geometry/Integrated Math 2 EOCs. OSPI is planning to follow essentially the same process in 2012 as was followed for the standard setting that occurred in 2011.

Later this year, SBE will approve the scores students must achieve in order to meet performance standards. This briefing on the standard setting process will give SBE an opportunity to review and ask questions about the standard setting process.

Expected Action

The Board will be asked to approve the standard setting plan. The Board will approve cut scores in August 2012, based on the recommendations of the standard setting panels.