

## **OSPI MATH AND SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL END OF COURSE ASSESSMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

### **BACKGROUND**

One of the SBE's strategic planning goals is to promote effective strategies to make Washington's students nationally and internationally competitive in math and science. In order to accomplish this goal, the SBE is providing system oversight for math and science achievement and strengthening science high school graduation requirements. Part of the SBE's system oversight is to establish performance improvement goals in science and mathematics on the state assessments. The SBE is also expected to consult with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on the development of state science end-of-course (EOC) assessments.

Statute<sup>1</sup> charges the superintendent of public instruction *in consultation with the state board of education*, to develop statewide end-of-course assessments for high school mathematics that measure student achievement of the state mathematics standards. The assessments will be implemented statewide in the 2010-2011 school year.

Students in the graduating class of 2013 will be required to meet both math and science standards, which means that they must meet standard in two end-of-course math assessments: algebra 1/integrated mathematics 1 and geometry/integrated mathematics 2, and a science assessment<sup>2</sup>. The SBE will set the cut scores for those exams in August 2011.

If the Common Core English and Math standards are adopted, new assessments could be implemented as early as 2014-15. The Smarter Based Consortium that Washington has joined along with 30 other states will be examining the creation of these new assessments using the Common Core standards. The Consortium received \$160 million to begin its work. How the new assessments would be integrated into Washington's assessment system is yet to be determined.

OSPI staff will outline the complexities to implement the current schedule for graduation tests, and explain in greater detail the issues surrounding the state assessments, their relationship to potential Common Core assessments, and the connections of the assessments to high school graduation. In order to formulate a position on the OSPI recommendations, the SBE may be interested in pursuing such questions as:

- What are OSPI's thoughts or recommendations about the 2013 assessment requirements for graduation?
- What do you think needs to change in order to ramp up student achievement in the coming years?

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<sup>1</sup> RCW [28A.655.066](#)

<sup>2</sup> This year's 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take a comprehensive science assessment in 2011; in 2012, students will take an end-of-course science assessment.

- If the Common Core Standards are college and career ready standards, how will the consortium set performance levels—on the basis of what is needed to be college-ready, or on the basis of what is needed to graduate from high school?

**EXPECTED ACTION**

None; information only.

