

Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Cut Scores

January 2015



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Division of Assessment and Student Information

Preparing for New Test Scores

- ▶ Smarter Balanced assessments measure the full range of the Common Core State Standards. They are designed to let teachers and parents know whether students are **on track to be college- and career-ready** by the time they graduate.
- ▶ Because the new standards set **higher expectations** for students--and the new tests are designed to assess student performance against these higher expectations--our definition of grade level performance is higher than it used to be.
- ▶ As a result, it's likely that **fewer students will meet grade level standards**, especially for the first few years. Results should improve as students have additional years of instruction aligned to the new standards and become better equipped to meet the challenges they present.
- ▶ This does not mean that our students are “doing worse” than they did last year. Rather, the scores represent a **“new baseline”** that provides a **more accurate indicator** for educators, students, and parents as they work to meet the rigorous demands of college and career readiness.

Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Setting Activities

- ▶ **Online panel to recommend cut scores**
 - ▶ Over 10,000 registered
 - ▶ 5,840 logged in
 - ▶ 2,660 completed training and submitted recommendation
- ▶ **In-person panel to recommend cut scores**
 - ▶ 504 panelists confirmed
 - ▶ 482 completed the tasks
- ▶ **Vertical Articulation Committee to smooth across grades**
 - ▶ 64 panelists confirmed

Washington's Participation

- ▶ For the Online Panel Washington had 1,293 total participants:
 - ▶ 916 – Teachers
 - ▶ 238 – Other educators (administrators and higher ed)
 - ▶ 86 – Parents
 - ▶ 53 – Other (business/community members)
- ▶ For In Person Panel= 30, mostly teachers but a few administrators and higher education representatives

Achievement Level Setting Participation (across states)

	Online Panel	In-Person Panel	Cross-Grade Review Committee
Teachers	65%	64%	66%
Non-Teacher Educators & Administrators	18%	18%	19%
Higher Education	9%	12%	11%
General Public	7%	6%	5%
Total	2,660	482	64



Policy Achievement Level Descriptors

- The Level 4 student demonstrates **thorough understanding of and ability to apply** the English language arts and literacy (mathematics) knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Common Core State Standards.
- The Level 3 student demonstrates **adequate understanding of and ability to apply** the English language arts and literacy (mathematics) knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Common Core State Standards.
- The Level 2 student demonstrates **partial understanding of and ability to apply** the English language arts and literacy (mathematics) knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Common Core State Standards.
- The Level 1 student demonstrates **minimal understanding of and ability to apply** the English language arts and literacy (mathematics) knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Common Core State Standards.

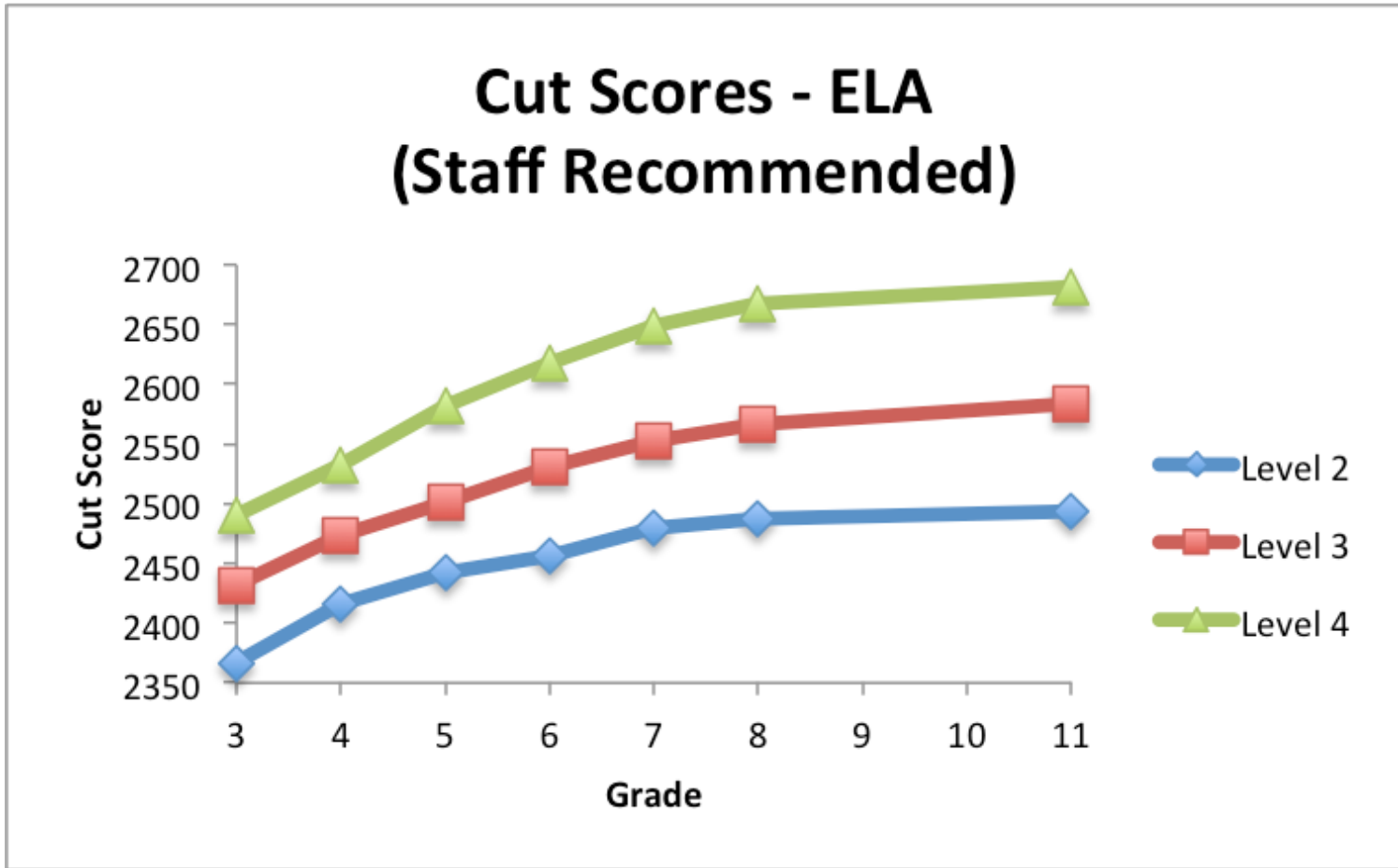
Smarter Balanced Threshold Scale Scores for Four Achievement Levels

Math Scale Score Thresholds			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-to-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2381	2436	2501
4	2411	2485	2549
5	2455	2528	2579
6	2473	2552	2610
7	2484	2567	2635
8	2504	2586	2653
11	2543	2628	2718

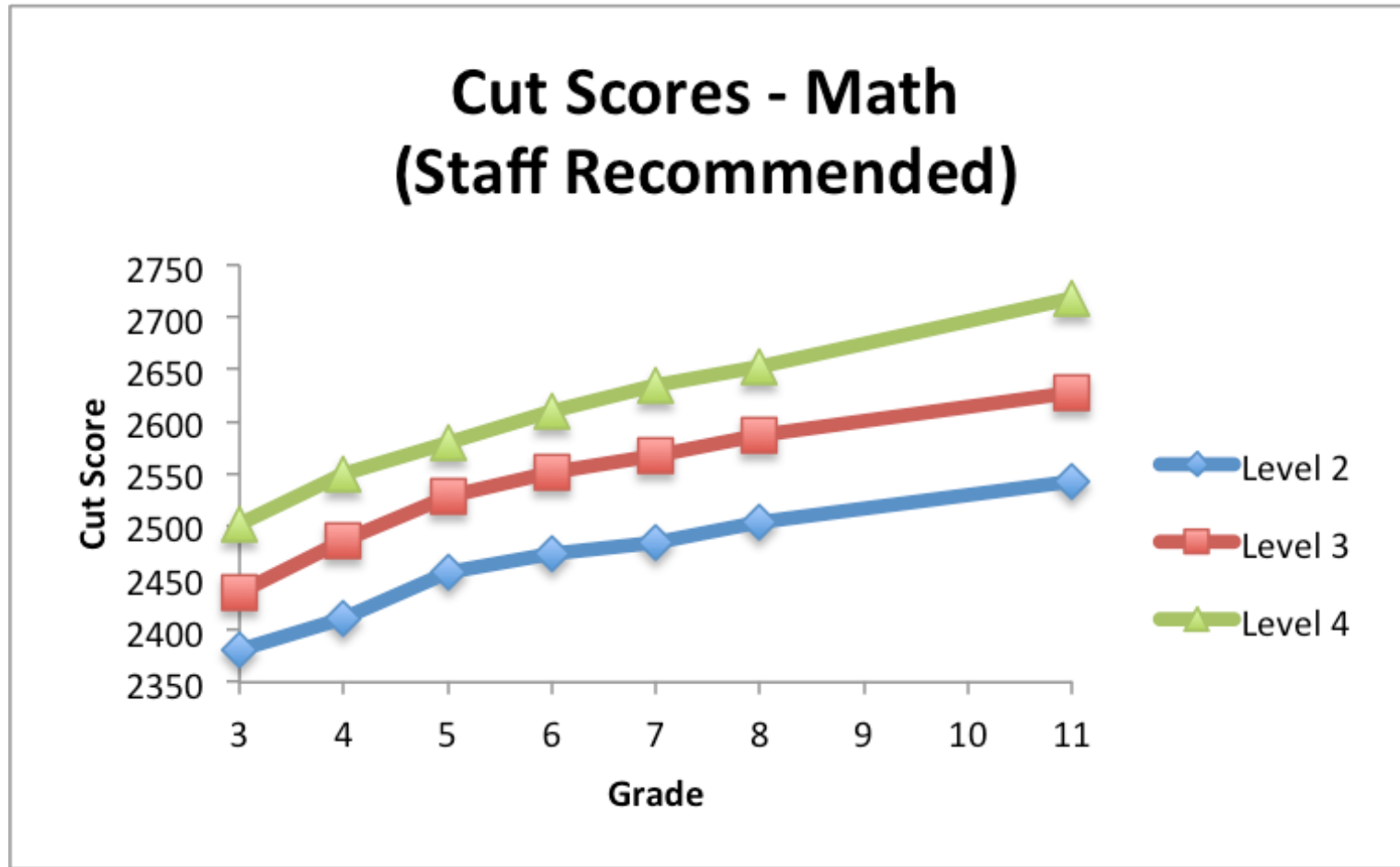
ELA Scale Score Thresholds			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-to-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2367	2432	2490
4	2416	2473	2533
5	2442	2502	2582
6	2457	2531	2618
7	2479	2552	2649
8	2487	2567	2668
11	2493	2583	2682



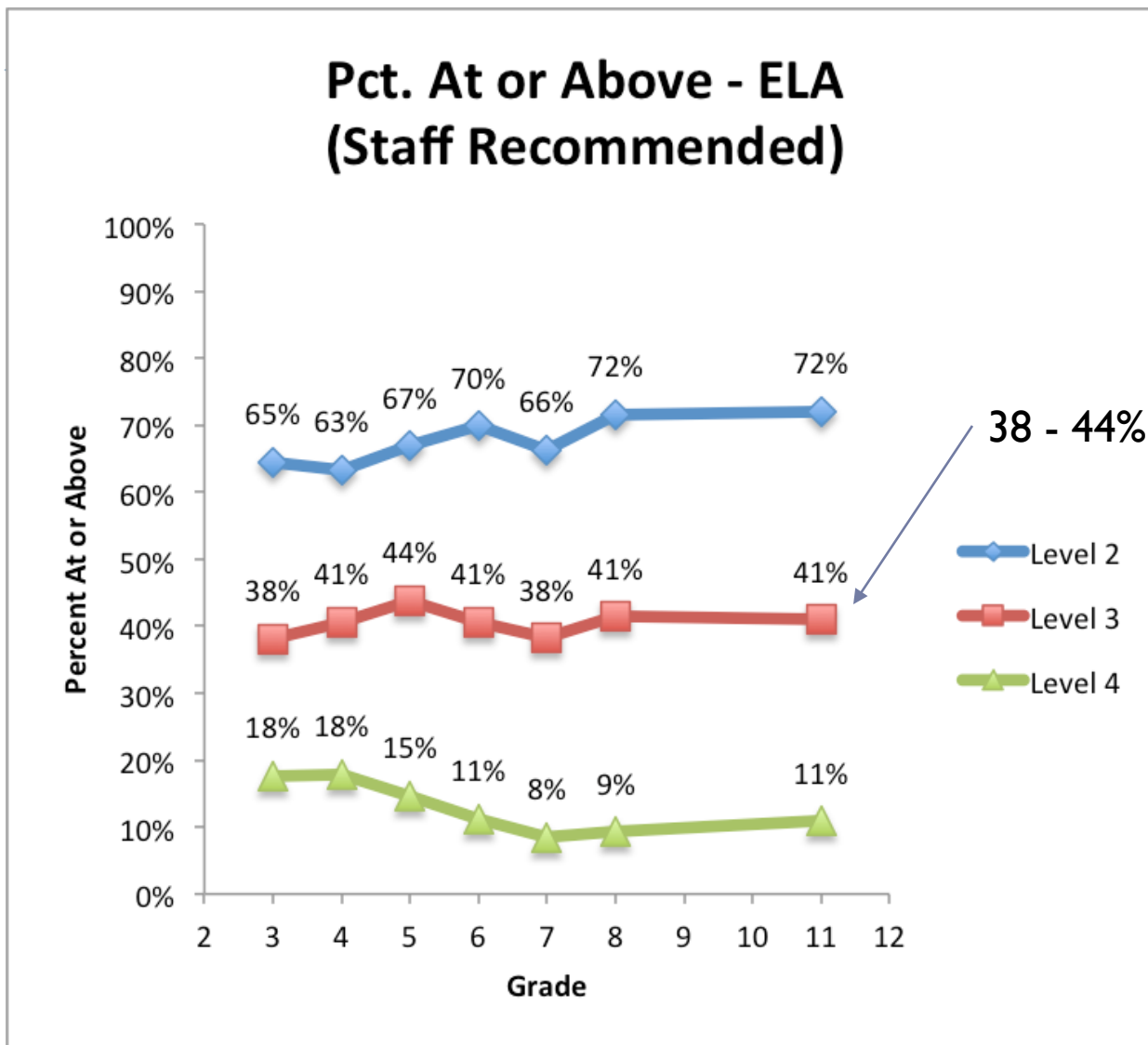
Approved Initial Cut Scores - ELA



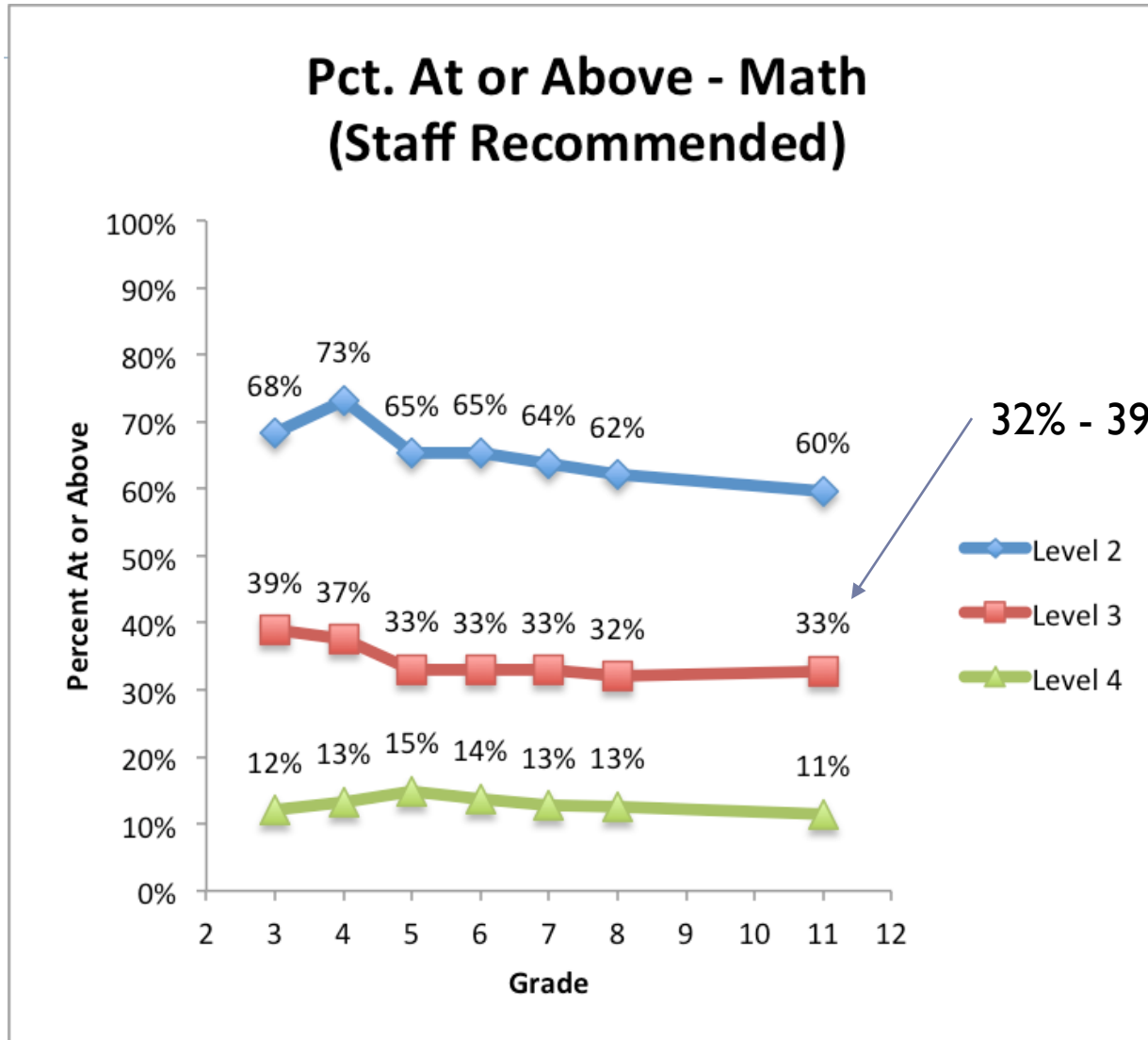
Approved Initial Cut Scores - Math



Consortium-wide Impact of Cut Scores



Consortium-wide Impact of Cut Scores



Percent of Field Test Sample That Met Standard (Scored Level 3 or Level 4)

Grade	ELA	Math
3	38%	39%
4	41%	37%
5	44%	33%
6	41%	33%
7	38%	33%
8	41%	32%
11	41%	33%

Gr 4 WASL
Rdg 48% &
43% Wrt
in 1997

Gr 4 WASL
Math 21%
in 1997

Gr 7 WASL
Rdg 39% &
31% Wrt
in 1998

Gr 7 WASL
Math 20%
in 1998

Gr 10 WASL
Rdg 51% &
41% Wrt
in 1999

Gr 10 WASL
Math 33%
in 1999

