

Reading and the Essential Skills

Essential Skills Requirement

OAR 581-022-0615: "Assessment of Essential Skills" states that students first enrolled in the 9th grade in 2008 (the graduating class of 2012) will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skill of "Read and comprehend a variety of text" in order to receive a high school diploma.

Essential Skills Assessment Options

The following table summarizes the approved assessment options for the Essential Skill of Reading available as of October 30, 2009 for the graduating class of 2012. Please note that while the State Board of Education may either raise or lower the achievement standards for future graduating classes, the achievement standards included in the table below are the established standards which will apply to the graduating class of 2012.

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS (Only One Assessment Is Required)	ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD
OAKS Reading	236
ACT	18
PLAN	18
Work Keys	5
Compass	81
ASSET	42
SAT	440
PSAT	44
2 Reading Work Samples: at least one informational reading selection (the second reading selection may either be informational or literary)	Score: 12 across the three required traits for each work sample (each trait must receive an individual score of at least 3) Work samples are locally scored with the Official State Reading Scoring Guide

Districts may choose to offer students only a subset of the approved assessment options. However, if a student chooses to use an approved assessment option that is not offered by the district, the district must accept that assessment option. For instance, if a district does not offer the ACT as an option for all of its students but an individual student chooses to take the ACT, the student may still use the ACT to meet an Essential Skill requirement. Similarly, if a student takes the ASSET while enrolled in one district and then transfers to another district that does not offer the ASSET, the student may still use the ASSET to meet an Essential Skills requirement.