

SC Education Accountability Update

Following the Progress of Amendments to the EAA

May 2009



EOC DECISIONS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

Revisions to the Education Accountability Act of 1998 (EAA) were enacted in June 2008. Modifications made to the law included decisions requiring involvement of the Education Oversight Committee:

1. Approval of the assessments for use in the state accountability system (Section 59-18-320 A and B);
2. Establishment of student expectations within content areas (Section 59-18-900 B)
3. Establishment of ratings (values, methods and performance levels) (Section 59-18-900 B)



APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENTS

Revisions to the EAA included the replacement of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) with a new standards-based state assessment for grades 3-8. The new test, Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) is being administered for the first time during the current school year.

Prior to the administration of the PASS Writing test in March 2009, all 8,300 items in the PASS item pool were reviewed for alignment with the state academ-

ic standards. Educators met in Columbia January 16-17 2009, to participate in alignment reviews in all five subject areas. The 145 participating educators were chosen from a list of individuals nominated by superintendents.

A technical review of the items will occur in June-July 2009, and the EOC will consider the recommendations in July.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

The student performance levels in the law (Section 59-18-900 B) are:

- **Not Met** (student did not meet the grade level standard);
- **Met** (student met the grade level standard)
- **Exemplary** (student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard)

What information will the EOC use to determine what is good enough performance at each level?

- 1 Information from public engagement partnership with Clemson (focus groups, phone interviews, web surveys)
- 2 Establishment of 2020 Goal

- 3 Study of teacher judgements of performance of their students by approximately 900 teachers in May 2009 (process conducted by Data Recognition Corporation)
- 4 Educator engagement through teacher team-developed Descriptors of Achievement Levels (DALs) from SCDE, used for test development and standard setting
- 5 Recommendations from educators using book-marking process (150 teachers will participate in week-long process in August 2009; teachers nominated by school district superintendents.)



ESTABLISHMENT OF RATINGS

Revisions to the law outline that “the EOC, working with the State Board of Education and a broad-based group of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, parents, business and industry persons, community leaders, and educators, shall determine the criteria for and establish five academic performance ratings of Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, and School/District At-Risk” (Section 59-18-900 B.)

In the context of goals for our educational system, the EOC must ask the following questions:

- What level of school performance should we expect for each rating level?
- How can we ensure that achievement growth is realized?

WHO’S ENGAGED?

General Public Engagement

- Ten focus groups
- 1,200 phone interviews
- Two web surveys (public and business sector)
- November-December 2009 public comment period on ratings
- December 7, 2009 public hearing on ratings

Educator Engagement

- Sixty-two SC districts recommended teachers for test alignment and bookmarking.
- Fifty-one districts placed the “SC Survey of Educational Effectiveness” on their district websites.
- Thirteen school districts are participating in the teacher perception of student mastery study
- Teacher-team developed DALs
- EOC presentations at professional meetings

State Board of Education (SBE) Engagement

- Discussion of 2020 Goal in May 2009
- Invited to June 2009 EOC meeting for public engagement report
- Presentation to SBE on student performance levels September 2009
- Bimonthly meetings between EOC and SBE

EXPECTED TIMELINE

June 2009

- Receipt of public engagement report from Clemson University
- Establishment of 2020 Goal
- Adoption of working assumptions

August 2009

- Approval of assessments

August-September 2009

- Establishment of student performance standards

October-November 2009

- Development and simulation of accountability system methods and criteria to accommodate new assessments

November -December 2009

- Public review of accountability design for ratings methodology and criteria

December 2009

- Approval of ratings methodology and criteria by EOC



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For complete information and updates on the EAA revisions, visit the EOC website at

<http://www.eoc.sc.gov/EAAof1998.htm>

**Questions?
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