

May 2009 West Virginia Board of Education Meeting
Executive Summary:
2009 WESTEST 2 Cut Scores by Subject and Grade Level Report

Purpose:

The purpose of this state board items is to request that the West Virginia Board of Education review and approve the cut scores for WESTEST 2. Attached in the WESTEST 2 Table are the Standard Setting Committee's WESTEST 2 transitional cut score recommendations by grade level and by content area for grades 3-8 and grade 11 for State Board review and approval.

Background:

Approximately, 200 West Virginia educators reviewed the Content Standards and Objectives and the performance level descriptors in the following State Board policies: Policy 2520.1; 2520.2; 2520.3, and 2520.4. These educators used their content expertise to judge the knowledge and skills students need to have acquired by grade level and content area. The actual methodology is provided in that section of this Executive Summary.

In addition, each content area committee made cut score recommendations for each grade and content area combination (e.g., Grade 3 Mathematics) at the West Virginia Standard Setting Meeting in February 2009. The committee consisted of educators who were nominated by county superintendents. The teacher-participants had expertise and experience in the four content areas: reading/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies. In addition, selected teachers had expertise and experience in special education, including staff members from the School for the Deaf and Blind. The administrators who participated were superintendents, principals, county test coordinators and members of the State Assessment Advisory Team. In addition to educators, parents and members of the business community were selected county and WVDE staffs.

The attached cut scores are based on the 2008 WESTEST 2 field test data; therefore, they are considered transitional cut scores. The federally approved *West Virginia Accountability Plan* allows West Virginia Department of Education to review the 2009 cut scores after the 2009 and 2010 operational tests. The review of three years of data before finalizing the cut scores used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) will provide for very reliable cut scores. The approved *West Virginia Accountability Plan* also allows West Virginia to adjust the required trajectory of the AYP targets as part of the *Accountability Plan*.

Therefore, it is understood that the West Virginia Department of Education will conduct a second standard setting or cut score review using the 2009 operational year's data and a third standard setting or cut score review using the 2010 operational year's data to achieve the most reliable cut scores in 2010.

Methodology:

A well-respected standard setting model, called Modified Bookmark Standard Setting Procedure (BSSP; Lewis, Mitzel and Green, 1996), was used to set WESTEST 2 standards in West Virginia in February of 2009. The committee reviewed grades 3 to 11 in mathematics, reading/language arts, and social studies per content area, per grade level. In science, the committee determined the cut scores per content area per grade levels 3-9.

There were three different rounds of review. In Rounds 1 and 2, the cut scores were determined individually by each participant. In Round 3, participants reviewed their recommended cut scores, which were presented by CTB/McGraw-Hill researchers; as needed, participants worked using consensus to adjust their recommendations as they deemed necessary for the best articulation and balance across grade levels.

This standard setting process has been reviewed and approved by members of the West Virginia Technical Assistance Committee (TAC). The standard setting booklets only addressed the items for the 2009 operational test items, not all of the items field tested. Also, the process has been reviewed and approved by other state and national experts in the areas of assessment, reporting, and accountability.

Impact:

The West Virginia Department of Education will use the cut scores as defined in the attached table to determine AYP for 2008-2009 school year unless United States Education Department (USED) provides further guidance in terms of alternate route/s to determine AYP. In 2010, the West Virginia Department of Education will submit the final cut scores to the West Virginia Board of Education for approval. Three reviews of the cut scores will provide highly reliable cuts in which to judge school, county and state performance.

WESTEST 2 Cut Scores:

Research indicates that well-articulated cut scores will increase from grade to grade and across performance levels. The WESTEST 2 cut scores shown in WESTEST 2 table are the Standard Setting Committee's recommendations. These cut scores will serve as the WESTEST 2 cut scores for the 2008-2009 school year. Based on the cut scores below, the table provides the percentage of students who **are projected to perform "At or Above Mastery" by grade level based on CTB/McGraw-Hill data collection from the WESTEST 2 Field Test of September of 2008.**

WESTEST 2 Cut Scores Table to include the **Projected** % At or Above Mastery

Content Area	Grade	Novice	Partial Mastery	Mastery	Above Mastery	Distinguish	% At and Above Mastery
Reading / Language Arts	3	Below 353	353.0	413.0	466.0	502.0	61.4
	4	Below 356	356.0	427.0	467.0	512.0	59.6
	5	Below 359	359.0	434.0	473.0	513.0	60.8
	6	Below 361	361.0	445.0	481.0	518.0	59.2
	7	Below 363	363.0	455.0	499.0	548.0	58.7
	8	Below 365	365.0	460.0	518.0	575.0	52.7
	9	Below 366	366.0	474.0	522.0	575.0	48.9
	10	Below 368	368.0	482.0	527.0	576.0	42.7
	11	Below 370	370.0	478.0	531.0	576.0	40.0
Math	3	Below 458	458.0	557.0	587.0	623.0	58.9
	4	Below 463	463.0	570.0	609.0	636.0	58.0
	5	Below 502	502.0	591.0	637.0	655.0	58.1
	6	Below 554	554.0	609.0	652.0	678.0	56.6
	7	Below 556	556.0	624.0	675.0	699.0	53.0
	8	Below 576	576.0	624.0	681.0	721.0	51.6
	9	Below 599	599.0	642.0	695.0	730.0	52.5
	10	Below 605	605.0	650.0	702.0	732.0	50.4
	11	Below 622	622.0	660.0	711.0	734.0	46.6
Science	3	Below 428	428.0	525.0	581.0	611.0	54.6
	4	Below 429	429.0	541.0	593.0	620.0	47.6
	5	Below 500	500.0	558.0	606.0	630.0	50.4
	6	Below 501	501.0	560.0	616.0	645.0	52.4
	7	Below 516	516.0	571.0	626.0	656.0	51.3
	8	Below 524	524.0	585.0	655.0	693.0	46.7
	9	Below 533	533.0	600.0	685.0	731.0	47.5
Social Studies	3	Below 311	311.0	394.0	415.0	441.0	51.3
	4	Below 311	311.0	396.0	423.0	448.0	55.1
	5	Below 327	327.0	396.0	438.0	477.0	52.1
	6	Below 311	311.0	395.0	433.0	470.0	54.5
	7	Below 320	320.0	398.0	428.0	467.0	49.4
	8	Below 338	338.0	398.0	424.0	465.0	48.5
	9	Below 351	351.0	399.0	428.0	462.0	49.5
	10	Below 367	367.0	400.0	426.0	452.0	47.7
	11	Below 375	375.0	401.0	432.0	455.0	45.0