PROFICIENCY LEVELS OF STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

LONG TITLE

General Description:

    This bill imposes requirements regarding proficiency levels of statewide assessments.

Highlighted Provisions:

    This bill:

    ▸ requires the State Board of Education to:

        • establish four proficiency levels for each statewide assessment;

        • develop proficiency level descriptors for each proficiency level of each
statewide assessment;

        • develop proficiency level descriptors for the top two proficiency levels that
describe the knowledge and skills a student should obtain to be on a trajectory
for postsecondary success;

        • Ŝ➤ [set cut scores for statewide assessments using the National Assessment of
Educational Progress as a benchmark] **consider NAEP scores, ACT scores, and previous
statewide assessment scores in setting cut scores for statewide assessments** ←Ŝ ; and

        • establish procedures for developing proficiency levels, proficiency level
descriptors, and cut scores that provide for the active participation of educators,
parents, higher education representatives, and employers.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

    None

Other Special Clauses:

    None

S.B. 183

28   **Utah Code Sections Affected:**
29   ENACTS:
30   **53A-1-604.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
31   ═══
32   *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*
33   Section 1. Section **53A-1-604.5** is enacted to read:
34   **53A-1-604.5. Proficiency levels, proficiency level descriptors, and cut scores for**
35   **statewide assessments.**
36   (1) As used in this section:
37   (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
38   (b) "Cut score" means the lowest scale score of a proficiency level of a statewide
39   assessment.
40   (c) "NAEP" means the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
41   (d) "Proficiency level descriptor" means a description of the knowledge and skills of a
42   student who scores within a certain proficiency level on a statewide assessment.
43   (e) "Statewide assessment" means an online computer adaptive test:
44   (i) of student achievement in language arts, mathematics, or science; and
45   (ii) which is administered statewide under this part.
46   (2) The board shall:
47   (a) identify and generally describe four levels of proficiency that are applicable to all
48   statewide assessments; and
49   (b) use the general descriptions of the four proficiency levels as a guideline to develop
50   proficiency level descriptors for each statewide assessment.
51   (3) (a) The board shall develop proficiency level descriptors for each statewide
52   assessment.
53   (b) For the top two levels of proficiency of each statewide assessment, the board shall
54   develop proficiency descriptors that describe the knowledge and skills a student should obtain
55   to be:
56   (i) on a trajectory for postsecondary success; and
57   (ii) prepared for entry-level course work without remediation in postsecondary
58   education or training.

59   (4) (a) The board shall set the cut scores for the top three proficiency levels for each

60   statewide assessment.

61   (b) In setting cut scores for statewide assessments of language arts or mathematics

62   achievement, the board shall Ŝ→ [~~use the NAEP as a benchmark so that the percentage of students~~

63   ~~who are proficient in language arts or mathematics as measured by a statewide assessment is~~

64   ~~approximately equal to the percentage of Utah students who are proficient in the same subject~~

65   ~~as measured by the NAEP~~] **consider the most recent NAEP scores, the most recent ACT scores,**

65a   **and scores on previous statewide assessments** ←Ŝ .

66   (5) The board shall establish procedures for developing proficiency levels, proficiency

67   level descriptors, and cut scores for statewide assessments that provide for the active

68   participation of educators, content area specialists, parents, higher education representatives,

69   and employers.

Legislative Review Note
          as of 1-10-14 1:59 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel