

## Higher Math Achievement Standards Approved

The end of October, the Oregon State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards and increased the achievement standards (cut scores) for math. The new math achievement standards go into effect immediately for this school year, while the Common Core will be phased in over the coming years. Many Oregon educators have participated in this process. The State Board's actions support the higher expectations for students as seen through the Oregon Diploma requirements.

### Oregon Math Achievement National Ranking

Math	Based on Oregon 2006-07 Performance (NAEP)	Projected Oregon Performance with increased Cut Scores (NAEP)
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	27 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	35 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>

\*Source: Oregon Department of Education based on the 2006-07 state standards in NCEs study Mapping State Proficiency Standards on the NAEP Scales: 2005-2007.

Both the change in the cut scores and the Common Core Standards are absolutely necessary to prepare our students for the rigors of the modern day world they will enter upon graduating.

The math achievement standards (cut scores) for grades 3-8 will change effective the 2010-11 school year. The current high school cut score for "Meets" of 236 will remain the same. Below is a table of the newly approved cut scores for grades 3-8 and the current cut scores for high school:

### Math Achievement Standards "Cut Scores"

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Old "Meets"</u>	<u>New "Meets"</u>	<u>New "Exceeds"</u>
3	205	212	219
4	212	219	227
5	218	225	234
6	221	227	237
7	226	232	242
8	231	234	245
HS	236	236	251

While the increased rigor of the new cut scores will initially result in fewer students meeting the achievement standard, this higher bar is necessary to get our students ready for the new Oregon graduation requirements and success after high school. Fewer students meeting the achievement standard will not mean students know less than they did the year before or that they are doing worse in school. These new achievement standards simply require a higher level of mastery of mathematics information and concepts.

## Supporting Increased Math Achievement

Math achievement continues to be a priority in Oregon Trail. Each of our schools' improvement plans include a goal focused on math. With the change in cut scores, our urgency has increased to improve student outcomes.

Plans to support student achievement in math include:

- Staff development to strengthen both instructional strategies and design as well as teacher conceptual understanding of math
- Vertical articulation of curriculum K-12; grade level curriculum is tied to state standards for each grade.
- Transition coordination (5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>); insuring that students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade exit at the level needed to be successful in 6<sup>th</sup> grade as well as 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Using math vocabulary and concepts across the content areas
- Raising the rigor and expectations in each grade/class
- Track each student's performance and identify those students who are not meeting standard; create an plan to address gaps
- Outreach plan to parents regarding home support
- Effective use of school volunteers to provide additional support
- Elementary
  - Blocking for math to support instructional differentiation
  - After school math programs at some schools (supported by Title Ia funds)
  - Intervention instruction/programs; a second dose for students who are not at standard
  - Grade level pacing guides to map out the curriculum for the year
  - Development of grade level expectations and common district assessments (in addition to the State Wide assessment)
  - Acceleration of advanced students
  - Standards based report card communicates to parents progress of students
- Middle
  - Lengthened class periods to provide more instruction time
  - Differentiate math class placement based on student needs and skills; including acceleration for advanced students
- High
  - Differentiate math class placement based on student needs and skills; including acceleration for advanced students
  - Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers working closely with math teachers to embed math standards and skills in course content
  - After school tutorial available twice a week

A strong foundation in math is essential in order for the students of Oregon Trail to be successful after high school. The staff and administration are committed to providing a strong foundation for this success.