

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HEARING TYPE: X INITIAL CONSIDERATION

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2006

SUBJECT: **PSAT, SAT, and ACT MATHEMATICS CUTSCORES UPDATE**

SERVICE UNIT: OSPI Assessment and Research

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BACKGROUND:

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6475 (2006 Session) authorized the use of three alternative methods to meet standards for purposes of a Certificate of Academic Achievement. One of these methods allows students to meet the mathematics standard based on their scores on the PSAT, the SAT, or the ACT assessments.

The specific provision in the legislation states that:

“A student's score on the mathematics portion of the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment test (PSAT), the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), or the American College Test (ACT) may be used as an objective alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a student has met or exceeded the mathematics standards for the certificate of academic achievement. The State Board of Education shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard for mathematics. The State Board of Education shall identify the first scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may increase but not decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state standard for mathematics.” (Section 4 (10) (b))

As specified above, the State Board of Education is to “identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard for mathematics.”

Student assessment data was requested from ACT and the College Board, and both organizations have agreed to provide the information. This data will be combined with student WASL results and an analysis will be conducted to determine appropriate cutscores.

The purpose of this presentation is to share with the board the options that are being considered in identifying the cutscores and the status of the discussions with the National Technical Advisory Committee and the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options Technical Advisory Committees.