




PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Rebecca B. Garland 
Deputy State Superintendent

DATE March 7, 2014

FIVE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

In October 2013, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted college-and-career readiness Academic Achievement Standards and Academic Achievement Descriptors for the End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests and their alternate assessments. After considering much input on the importance of having more definitive discrimination for student achievement reporting, the SBE adopted at its March 2014 meeting a methodology to add a new achievement level. With this additional achievement level, the State will report five levels as follows:

Revised Achievement Level*	Meets On-Grade-Level Proficiency Standard	Meets College-and-Career Readiness Standard
Level 5 denotes Superior Command of knowledge and skills	Yes	Yes
Level 4 denotes Solid Command of knowledge and skills	Yes	Yes
Level 3 denotes Sufficient Command of knowledge and skills (One standard error from Level 4)	Yes	No
Level 2 denotes Partial Command of knowledge and skills	No	No
Level 1 denotes Limited Command of knowledge and skills	No	No

*Revised achievement level ranges (cut scores) and achievement level descriptors will be posted at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>.

The addition of the new Achievement Level 3 will identify students who are prepared for the next grade, but do not meet the college-and-career readiness standard. An additional level will also enable more accurate identification of students who need additional instruction and assistance.

The SBE adopted the recommended achievement level cut scores and the new Level 3 achievement level descriptor for EOC tests in Biology, English II, and Math I; EOG tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics at grades 3-8 and Science at grades 5 and 8; the **NCEXTEND2** EOC alternate assessments in

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Biology, English II, and Math I; the *NCEXTEND2* EOG alternate assessments in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics at grades 3–8 and Science at grades 5 and 8; and the *NCEXTEND1* alternate assessments at Grades 3–8, 10, and 11.

The accountability reports will not be recalculated for the 2012–13 school year because there were no consequences for students.

The new levels will need to be applied to the fall 2013 WinScan data files, and reports will need to be updated to identify students who now meet the revised standards. LEAs will be provided with a method for producing revised Beginning-of-Grade 3, and EOC, and *NCEXTEND2* class rosters as well as revised EOC and *NCEXTEND2* EOC Level III 0–100 grade conversion reports. Class rosters with grades based on the State percent's method will not be affected. It is a local decision whether or not to revisit final grade calculations for fall 2013. Additionally, the 10/20 Day Rule is waived for students impacted by this adjustment to allow schools to drop students who are inappropriately enrolled in a credit recovery course or repeating a course for credit. The new deadline to remove these students from the affected course(es) is Monday, March 17, 2014. This extension does not affect students who are appropriately enrolled in the aforementioned courses or enrolled in other courses. Individual student reports (ISRs) will be redesigned to report a student's on-grade-level proficiency and the level of college-and-career readiness for spring 2014 administrations. Redesigned ISRs will not be available to LEAs for fall 2013 reports.

North Carolina will continue to report student performance on college-and-career readiness standards. For college-and-career readiness, the percent of students at or above Level 4 will be used. The college-and-career readiness standard will be used for the Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) that are part of federal reporting. AMOs were set in 2012–13 using the college-and-career readiness standard; therefore, targets will not be redefined. Proficiency on state school performance grades will be calculated using Level 3 and above.

RBG/njc

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