

Table VII

Changes in Minimum Competency Program

State minimum competency testing programs have been in effect for as long as 12 years in Oregon to only within the last year in Ohio. Four states have programs ten years old or more (Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, and Oregon). Most changes in minimum competency testing reported are simply addition of new subjects to be tested, shifts from norm-referenced testing to criterion-referenced testing and back, introduction of reporting that assists remediation efforts in the schools, shifting of emphasis from high school graduation standards to minimum standards covering a period of years and sometimes culminating at the eighth grade, and changes in the years in which tests are administered.

Plans for future changes in minimum competency testing programs were mostly the addition of new areas of testing and some changes in standards. Two states indicate they were considering moving to norm-referenced tests, and another is considering a move from twelfth grade graduation emphasis to eighth grade and fifth grade promotion emphasis. Connecticut has added a mastery testing program for grades 4, 6 and 8, and plans to phase out its minimum competency program in 1987. Addition of science is being considered by two or three states, and writing in two or three states. There is a trend away from norm-referenced tests, toward the use of criterion-referenced tests or criterion-referenced mastery tests, and toward the use of IRT scales in establishing cut-off standards.

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State	Years Proqra in Place	current Program Change		Major Changes	Agencies and Organ. Worked for Change					Currently contemplated Changes	Agencies and Organ. Working for Change					
		Y	Change		EA	Teacher	Admin. Organ.	PTA	Other		BE	EA	Teacher	Admin. Organ.	PTA	Other
Alabama	5	Y	N	Grade 11 grad. added in '83. First class: '85.		N	N		N	N		N	N		N	
Alaska - No program	m															
Arizona	10	N	N	None		N	N		N	Anticipated to change to more stringent guideline due to legislation passed last year requiring promotion and retention guidelines. Also developing essential skills list that students in grades 9&12 must pass--do not know when will go into effect.		Y	N	N		N
Arkansas	3	N	Y	o Obj's added In Science and L.A. in certain grades o Overall test score added. o Remedial component added: plan to ensure students attain mastery.		N	N		Other	s None e		N	N	I		N
California	8	Y	N	None		N	Y			None		Y	N			N
Colorado	9	Y	N	lost districts do not test. District which does is moving away from M.C. (phasing out).		N	Y			None		Y	N			N
Conncticut	6	Y	N	None		Y	I			Phasing out of M.c. 1987 to substitute Mastery testing at 4,8			N	I		N

SOURCE: Data Compiled for the Office of Technology Assessment by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1985.

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State	Years Program in Place	Current Program		Major Changes	Agencies and Organ.							Currently Contemplated Changes	Agencies and Organ.					
		Change	am		Th	No	ed	f	range	Currently Contemplated Changes	SEA		Leg	Teacher	Admin.	Organ.	Other	
Dlaware	5	N	Y	When M.C. first specified by board it was for graduation only; now only at grade 8 Also, because responsibility has always been at LEA level changes could have occurred without SEA knowing specifics.			N	N	N	N	Instructional dept. putting together course requirements; may be spin-off of item bank being developed for assessing these-- result of Governor's Task Force requiring Mastery Testing . Change in specifying in more detail -student perf. req's in terms of content and -assessment			*	*		Against concept of mastery testing at SEA level ; instead rec'd item bank being developed. Both org's agreed.	
D.C.	3	Y	N	None			N	Y	N	N	None			N	N		N	
Florida	10	Y: Ba the	cal y Sam	None			N	N		N	Y: legislature asked for full-scale eval. of program 2 years ago and came out with set of reconsndations: 1) enhancement changes 2) merging SSAT 1 & 2 at grade 10.			N	N		DOE	
Georgia	Grade 10: 4 3: beg	Y J.	N	Note: initial leg. did not specify comp. level; in 1980 they did; also in 1980 state assumed responsibil. for testing--prior to that, Legislatiol very vague.			N	N	N	N	Grade 10: 1 passing scores will be raised beginning Fall '86 2 writing assmt. to be added Fall '87.		N	N	N		N	
Hawaii	6	Y	N	add Life-skills.			N	N		N	None		N	N	N		N	

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State	Years Program in Place	Current Program		Major Changes	Agencies and Organ. Involved for change							Currently Contemplated Changes	Agencies and Organ. Involved for Change						
		First	Change		SEA	Legislature	Teacher	Admin.	FIA	other	BE		EA	Legislature	Teacher	Admin.	FIA	Other	
Idaho	6	N	Y	o Min.-std. levels adjusted in 1984 in preparation for change to grade 8. o Types of cut off scores changed to grade 8.	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	looking at norm-ref'd std'd. achievement tests.		N	N					with endorsement of teachers admin's.
Illinois - Not Applicable																			
Indiana - No State program																			
Iowa - No program				SEA to do the same model programs but counsel	Y	Y	81	me			s for state assessment di n to be provided.								
Kansas	N	N	N	Legislature did not require testing each year; they required test in 79,81,82 84. Some LEA's may have opted to administer tests in other year Leg. in 1984 stipulated that tests be given 5 consecutive years Prior to 1984 tested in grades 2,4,6,8,1 beginning An 1984 and for next 5 years will test at grades 2,4,6 8,10 with SEA support	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	None				N	N			N

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State	Years Program in Place	Current Prgrgr.sm		Major Changes	Agencies and Organ. That Worked for Ch							Currently Contemplated change	Agencies and Organ. Working for Change								
		First	Change		SBE	SEA	Legislature	Teacher organ.	Admin. organ.	PTA	OOther		SBE	SEA	Legislature	Teacher organ.	Admin.	PTA	OOther		
Kentucky	6	N	Y	◁ Same as for state assessment. ◁ Last '79 program was not considered M.C. , merely diagnostic. 1984 program is now MCT.	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1986 legislature expected to make recommendation regarding promotion.	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N		
Louisiana	4	N	Y	Original plan was to add a new grade each year. Did that from 1981 to 1984, then stopped.	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Upgrade standards Add 8th grade to test Add a norm-referncd. portion to test. All will be implemented in 1986.	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Governor Governor
Maryland	9	N	Y	◦ 1982 IRT models adopted. ◦ Reading added. ◦ De'pt. of state framework.	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1989: Math and writing added 1988: Citizenship added	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Massachusetts	4	Y	N	None	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Poss. of statewide stud. test and standards.	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Michigan - No program																					
Minnesota - No program																					
Missouri	2	Y	N	More \$ for MCT than for state assmt.	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	◦ Minimum standards to be adopted by Fall '85. ◦ Grade 12 grad. for 1982.	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	

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		First			SEA	Le v. admin.	Teacher	Other	Other	BE	EA		Teacher	Adm. -----	Organ. -----	PTA	other	
Missouri	8	Y	N	None	1	1	N	N	1	N	As of 1986 grades withheld of 9th graders until passed.				N	N	N	
Montana - No program																		
Nebraska	10	Y	N	None	1	1	N	N	1	N	None				N	N	N	
Nevada	6	Y	N	Tests more difficult Spring '85 change in standards and scoring from correct to IRT.	1	1	N	N	1	N	None				N	N	N	
New Hampshire - program m.				no changes expected														
Jersey	8	Y	N	None	1	1	N	N	1	N	1986--add writing and new tests in reading and math.				N	N	Governor	
New Mexico	7	N	Y	1983--added L.A. , reading and math. 1984--added science and social studies.	1	1	N	N	1	N	Hope to have test validly measure the "Exit Competencies."				N	1	N	
New York	6	N	Y	<u>elementary</u> o Added 5th grade writing. o Went from NRT to CRT <u>H.S. Comp. Tests</u> Life-skills test to academic skills test In 1979 Introduced Degrees of Reading Power.	1	1	N	N	1	N	Testing program will be changed: additional areas will be tested, e.g., World and American History, science.				N	1	N	

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		Change			Legisla- ture	Teacher	Admin. Assoc.	PTA	Other	Legisla- ture		Teacher organ.	Admin. Assoc.	PTA	Other		
North Carolina	7	N	Y	Areas tested: Expanded content an grade level tested; uin effect 85-86.	Y	Y	N	N	N	Testir comission	None on everyone ported it.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
North Dakota - No	Program																
Ohio	1	Y	N	None	-	-	IA-	--	----		No		NA-	--	----		
Oklahoma - No pro am																	
Oregon	12	Y	N	None	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Pending: movement toward minimum competency testing.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Pennsylvania	First year	N	N	None	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Shift to testing Spring "86 instead of Fall with new Instrument to reflect F to S content; still a math and reading test w/same, object		Y	N	N	N	n
Rhode Island - N	program																
South Carolina	6	Y	N	1984 legislation for compensatory ed. provides funds for imparied school:	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Science added in '86 at grades 3,6,9. In '86 test for diploma will begin at 10th grade (now 11th) to apply to 89/90 graduation. Science 3,6,8 added in '88.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
South Dakota -	program																
Tennessee- Not available for interview	interview																
Texas	h	N	Y	Added grade 3 in 1981.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Totally new test next year. Grades 1,3,5, 7,9 and 12. 1-9 will be same subjects Grade 12 will be L.A. All will be objective based, mastery test=.	Y	N	Y	N	N	N

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		First	Change		SBE	SEA	Legislature	Other	C organ. PTA	Other	SBE		SEA	Legislature	Teacher organ.	Admin organ.	PTA	Other			
Utah	7	Y	N	None						NA			Class of 1989 will have to take new test. Covers grades 3,6, 10 and 12. Not min. comp." but "objectives based." Involves changes in state curriculum, as well as testing.	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Vermont	8	N	Y	1978--"other" (reasoning) added.	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	In 1989 it will become an 8th grade promotion test (not 12th grade graduation). Ruling was in 1985. Competencies will be re-written.	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Virginia	7	Y	N	None						NA			1980 began development of 7-12 objectives and assmt. Hope to replace grade 10 test with K-12 objective-based education. Also adding subjects to form a full curriculum.	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	n
Washington - No Program	program																				
West Virginia	0			NA									see WV(2)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Jud
Wisconsin - Not available for review.																					
- No state data:				required to assess.																	

WV2: A lawsuit was brought in 1978 or 1979 against one county (school district) claiming that school was not providing quality education. 1983 court decision said that state formulas for funding were inequitable and required major changes. In 1984 the SEA developed a "Plaster Plan" in response to the court. Policy statements in the plan require "learning outcomes" K-12. Objectives were written to define the outcomes. Pupils are required to show "progresses" toward 100 percent mastery of the objectives.

Twelve or 13 areas have been defined for curriculum objectives. For example, math is one area. 450 outcomes were written for K-12 math, with 1400 objectives. Each objective has about 10 items for measurement. Items are being written by a large committee of teachers. In essence, a very large and widely varied item bank is being developed.

Testing will be done by teachers by selecting items appropriate to their curricula. Teachers are required to teach to the objectives, but may choose different objectives to reach that outcome.