



DATE: May 4, 2012

TO: Public School District Superintendents
Community College Presidents
Area Education Agency Administrators

FROM: Kevin Fangman, Deputy Director and Administrator
Division of Learning and Results

Roger Utman, Ph.D., Administrator
Division of Community Colleges

SUBJECT: **Senior Year Plus Student Proficiency Requirements**

Iowa Testing Programs created new forms of the Iowa Assessments (previously the Iowa Tests of Educational Development [ITED] and Iowa Tests of Basic Skills [ITBS]) for the 2011-12 school year. These new forms have necessitated a reexamination of the norms. This examination resulted in a change in the proficiency requirements for students to be eligible to participate in college credit Senior Year Plus (SYP) programming. Although this information was shared with school districts in regional meetings in the spring and fall of 2011, it was not clearly articulated how this impacts student eligibility for SYP programming. These training materials can be accessed at <http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/default.aspx>.

To be eligible to participate, students must demonstrate proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science. Previously, eligibility was primarily determined using the most recent administration of the ITBS or ITED or an alternative measure of proficiency adopted by the school board. For the ITBS/ITED, students had to score at or above the 41st national percentile rank (NPR) in each of the three subject areas.

The 2010 national Iowa Assessment norms are different than previous norms established in 2000. Therefore, the 41st NPR on form E/F (the new forms) does not represent the same level of achievement as the 41st NPR on form A/B (based on the 2000 norms). Starting with the 2011-12 school year, form E is being administered in Iowa school districts and proficiency cut scores for the Iowa Assessments are

determined in the Standard Score metric (instead of NPR) specific to grade, content, and time of year (fall, midyear, and spring). They represent the same level of achievement as the previous cut scores.

With the new Iowa Assessments, the minimum National Standard Scores (NSS) valid for the 2011-2012 academic year are as follows:

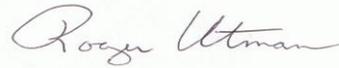
Grade	Fall	Midyear	Spring
9	Math - 243 Science - 243 Reading - 243	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 247	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 249
10	Math - 252 Science - 253 Reading - 252	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257
11	Math - 259 Science - 260 Reading - 259	Math - 261 Science - 265 Reading - 262	Math - 263 Science - 265 Reading - 263

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Varner, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education, Division of Community Colleges (jeremy.varner@iowa.gov, 515/419.9988).

Sincerely,



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