**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY**

**Topic:** Common Core Assessment Options: Update

**Date:** December 13, 2013

**Staff/Office:** Sarah Drinkwater, Brad Lenhardt, Office of Learning/Student Services

**Action Requested:  Informational Only  Adoption Later**  **Adoption  Adoption/Consent**

**ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:**

To present the State Board of Education an informational update regarding Oregon’s process in identifying and implementing an alternate assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics and English language arts starting in the 2014-15 school year; specifically, Oregon’s recommendation to participate in the NCSC Alternate Assessment Pilot Test.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon is a Tier II state with the National Center and State Collaboration Alternate Assessment consortium (NCSC AA). As a Tier II state we have supported the NCSC AA effort by providing expert review of the curriculum and instruction as well as summative assessment support materials the consortium has developed. In an effort to provide ongoing support but with little information or details at the time, the ODE recommended to the state board on June 21, 2013, Oregon’s participation in the NCSC AA Pilot Test.

After further consideration of the information provided by NCSC related to the pilot test, ODE has come to the conclusion Oregon will not participate in the NCSC AA Pilot Test slated for winter/spring 2014. The following are some of the more salient concerns that lead ODE to this decision:

* Availability and adequacy of user-friendly NCSC AA Curriculum & Instruction materials to both train teachers and prepare students with significant cognitive disabilities on the CCSS-aligned NCSC AA.
* Limited capacity or ability of students with significant cognitive disabilities to participate on an assessment that is administered online (NCSC AA pilot test). Oregon’s current alternate assessment (“Extended Assessment”)—administered to eligible students since 2000--is a paper-pencil based assessment and is administered one-on-one.
* Lack of accessibility to NCSC AA pilot test student records and constraints on current ODE resources to develop adequate sampling plan needed to create scaling link (with students Extended Assessment performance)--necessary for ODE to report student performance on statewide assessments for ELA and/or Math.

**ISSUE OVERVIEW:**

Upon receiving further details of the sampling plan and consideration by ODE staff of this plan and related logistics, ODE has decided not to participate in the NCSC AA Pilot Test in the Winter/Spring of 2014.