Updated OAA Alternative FAQ (3.26.14)

Ohio | Department of Education

1. What is the cut score for each OAA Alternative?
    a. Information about scoring and administration can be obtained from the individual vendors. Cut scores for each of the OAA Alternatives will be forthcoming.

2. Can retroactive scores count toward promotion (scores earned before the OAA Alternatives were posted)?
    a. Scores obtained before the OAA Alternative list was made available in March can be used toward promotion. This is in line with the fall OAA scores also being used for the purpose of promotion.

3. Is there a process for submitting scores to the Ohio Department of Education to verify student promotion?
    a. Scores will not be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education. However, student scores on OAA Alternatives should be filed in a student's Cumulative Folder. A promotion based on an OAA Alternative will be reported in the EMIS year-end data collection. The assessment itself will be scored according to vendor directions.

4. Can parents request an OAA Alternative?
    a. Parents can request an OAA Alternative assessment but it is ultimately up to district discretion whether an OAA Alternative will be made available to any students as well as if a particular student is prepared to demonstrate reading proficiency through an OAA Alternative assessment.

5. Do students who attain a cut score on the OAA Alternative need to take the spring OAA?
    a. Students not scoring a 400 or better on the fall OAA will take the spring OAA regardless of their OAA Alternative score. Keep in mind that if a student obtains a proficient cut score on an OAA Alternative that individual would be eligible for promotion regardless of his or her spring OAA score.

6. How many times can a district administer an OAA Alternative to a student?
    a. The OAA Alternative can be given at any time a district feels a student is prepared to demonstrate reading proficiency. A student can take an OAA Alternative twice during the year and once during the summer to mimic the Grade 3 Reading OAA administration. Three total administrations are possible.

7. Are there specific cut-off dates of when the OAA Alternative needs to be administered?
    a. No, the OAA Alternative can be given at any time throughout the year including summer.

8. Are districts required to select only one of the OAA Alternatives?
    a. The OAA Alternative remains OPTIONAL for districts depending on capacity and funding. The law does not require districts to offer an OAA Alternative.