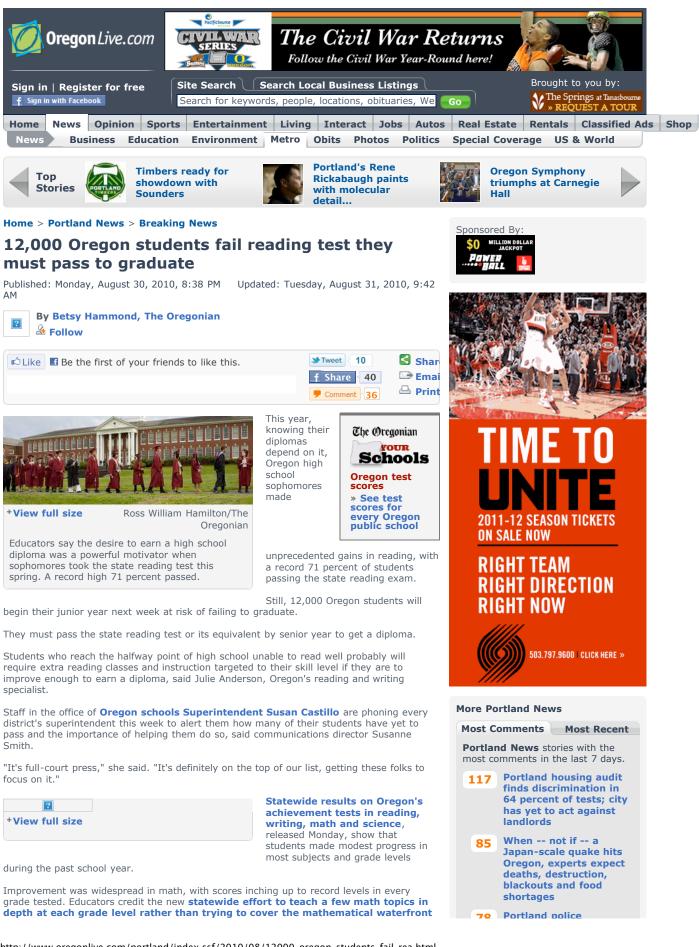
12,000 Oregon students fail reading test they must pass to graduate | OregonLive.com



 $http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/08/12000_oregon_students_fail_rea.html$

12,000 Oregon students fail reading test they must pass to graduate | OregonLive.com

each year.

Nowhere, however, was the change more dramatic than on the sophomore reading test.

The passing rate had

remained stuck at about 65 percent for years. This year it shot up to 71 percent -- mainly because students tried harder knowing their diploma was at stake.

"We do think motivation is behind this," Anderson said.

Test yourself: You can take a sample version of the 10th-grade reading test here.

The state Board of Education voted more than two years ago to add Oregon to the list of 27 states that require students to pass a standardized test to get a diploma. The class of 2012, which enters its junior year this fall, is the first to face the requirement, and only in reading.

The class of 2013 will also have to pass the state writing test, and the class of 2014 the math test, too -- requirements expected to be much more daunting than the reading test.

Still, the reading requirement seemed to have sneaked up on some high schools, including Aloha, Wilsonville, Century and Beaverton, where passing rates were lower than at schools with similar or higher poverty levels. At Wilsonville, for example, just 72 percent of 10th-graders passed, leaving 70 students in the class of 2012 needing to improve reading to earn diplomas.

Students can retake the computerized reading test up to three times in their junior year and three more times as seniors. They also have an option to demonstrate mastery by reading passages, answering questions and writing an analysis at the same level required on the multiple-choice test.

As is typical with test scores, this year's reading results tended to track schools' socioeconomic makeup.

West Linn, Lakeridge and Lake Oswego high schools, which primarily serve children of collegeeducated parents and where about one-tenth of students are low-income, had the best passing rates of big metro-area high schools. Roosevelt, Jefferson, Madison and David Douglas, all highpoverty high schools inside Portland city limits, had the worst.

But there were notable exceptions: Oregon City High -- where one-third of students are lowincome -- got 88 percent of its sophomores to pass, tying Lake Oswego and beating Lincoln. Forest Grove High, where 54 percent of students are lowincome and half are Latino, got 80 percent of its students to meet state reading standards.

Similarly, Roosevelt's rock-bottom results -- just 40 percent of sophomores passed the test -- were eclipsed by the 61 percent passing rate at Woodburn High, even though that high school's enrollment is also about 80 percent low-income and is more predominantly Latino than Roosevelt.

You can use a new ranking feature on The Oregonian's online schools guide to find the best and worst passing rates on state tests in all subjects and grade levels. (Scroll down to the bottom of the page where it says "Test Scores --See the top -- or bottom -- 150 schools.) This for instance shows the top schools when it came to 10th grade math.

Best and worst metro passing rates

Shown are the highest and lowest rates at which sophomores passed the state reading exam in metroarea high schools*

Best rates

school <u>% who passed; no. who</u> haven't 0.20/ 20

93%; 26 students 90%; 26 students 88%; 36 students 88%; 60 students 86%; 44
86%; 46 students 85%; 67 students 83%; 93 students 83%; 54 students
83%; 10 students 82%; 91
82%; 85
81%; 88 80%; 95
80%; 87

Worst rates

monot nates	
<u>school</u> <u>% who</u> haven't	passed; no. who
	400/ + 00
Roosevelt	40%; 90
students Jefferson	450/ . 52
students	45%; 53
Madison	51%; 87
students	5170, 67
David Douglas	57%; 315
students	57 707 515
Benson	59%; 103
students	,
Milwaukie	61%; 109
students	
Marshall	62%; 59
students	
Aloha	65%; 168
students	650/ 004
Reynolds	65%; 224
students Estacada	68%; 57
students	0070, 37
Parkrose	71%; 70
students	/1/0, /0
Wilsonville	72%; 69
students	,
Century	73%; 103
students	
Beaverton	74%; 104
students	
Hillsboro	74%; 95
students	

/0	investigate gang
	shootout on Max
	platform at Burnside
	and 122nd Avenue

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What's this?



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The exceptional results at Oregon City and Forest Grove have similar explanations -- not surprising, since Oregon City educators emulated

many of Forest Grove's techniques.

Both "double dose" students who aren't up to grade level in reading, requiring them to take a second, intensive reading class in addition to their regular language arts class. They also make those reading catch-up classes part of a larger strategy.

At Forest Grove, there is a push to develop the English skills of native Spanish speakers and for all teachers to meet together frequently to plumb results and adjust techniques.

In Oregon City, the district decided to require students to pass the reading, writing and math tests to get a diploma starting with the class of 2010. Word filtered down from last year's seniors that the requirements were real.

"As a result," says literacy coach Kathy Haynie, "we have seen huge buy-in from teachers and students to include literacy and math skills in all classes." She predicts that, apart from students whose disabilities qualify them for a special education diploma, every single Oregon City High student will be able to show they read at grade level by 2012 and thereby qualify for a diploma.

-- Betsy Hammond

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* Excludes magnet schools,

Source: Analysis of Oregon

by The Oregonian

alternative schools and schools

with fewer than 50 sophomores

Department of Education statistics



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Lost in Liberal Land August 30, 2010 at 9:55PM

"Staff in the office of Oregon schools Superintendent Susan Castillo are phoning every district's superintendent this week to alert them how many of their students have yet to pass and the importance of helping them do so, said communications director Susanne Smith. "

Well thank God they're calling the superintendants! I'm sure without that courtesy phone call the superintendents would have no clue how mane of their students passed. Why would they bother paying attention to their students performcance, after all? And they definitely need to be told how important it is for them to pass it. Because I'm sure the superintendents don't realize that they need to pass to graduate. I feel much better knowing that these phone calls are being made.

And keep in mind that many of these students were probably close to passing and they have two more years to get there. Leave it to the O to make it sound like the sky is



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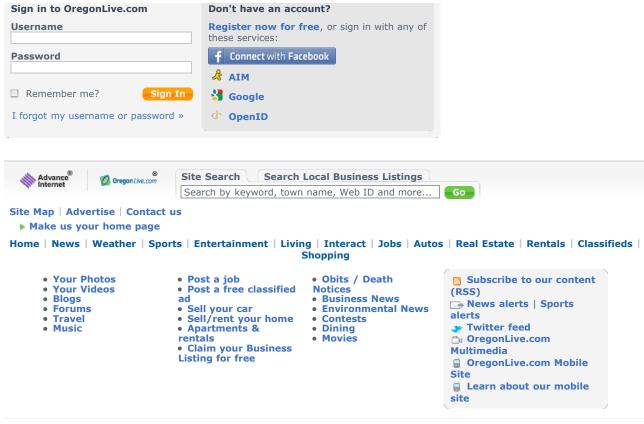
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Jim_McCarthy_959 September 02, 20	10 at 7:30PM
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http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2	
🔊 Reply 🖓 Post new	Ø Inappropriate? Alert us.
caveman1313 September 03, 2010 at A Follow	12:08PM
only 40% passed at Roosevelt? clearly the test me	ust be racist.
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caveman1313 September 03, 2010 at A Follow	12:13PM
so, castillo is calling all the supers.	
what leadership NOT.	
how about showing a little leadership and leading supers have no idea how to lead their schools to l step in and lead them in turn. she proposes to do and informing them how many students didn't pas	better scores so castillo needs to this by, what, calling them up
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baddogcarl August 30, 2010 at 11:10PM & Follow	
t is simply inaccurate to claim that students must pass order to graduate from high school. There are alternativ so.	
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idmd8910 August 31, 2010 at 1:10AM	
eldom is the question asked, is our children learning.	
Reply 5 Post new	Inappropriate? Alert us.
MooseKnuckle72 August 31, 2010 at 9	9:49AM
Me fail english??? That's unpossible!	
🕏 Reply 👎 Post new	Inappropriate? Alert us.
whiteyward August 31, 2010 at 3:20AM	
The effort to pass as many students as possible is using The state should use the GED as the end goal and remo test. This would leave the teachers with the students the	ve students as they pass that

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