

Assessment Brief



Public Schools of North Carolina • State Board of Education • Howard Lee, Chairman • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction • June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., Superintendent

North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills

September 4, 2008 • Vol. 13, No.1

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Proficiency Standard

Per State Board of Education policy HSP-N-000, all students must demonstrate computer proficiency requirements in order to receive a North Carolina high school diploma. All students must meet the computer skills graduation requirement based on the competencies of the K–8 computer skills curriculum defined in the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study*.

Students and parents/guardians are to be notified when the results are reported if the standard has or has not been met. If students do not meet the computer proficiency requirements after the first administration of the test, they must be given at least one opportunity per year to retake the test until the requirements have been met. Until the graduation requirement has been met, students who have not met this standard must be provided focused remedial instruction. In addition, notification must be provided to indicate when the focused remedial instruction will be provided and when the next retest will occur.

Online Test of Computer Skills

The North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills (Test Edition 3) is administered to fulfill the computer skills proficiency graduation requirement. The test measures the strands set forth and specifically defined in the North Carolina Computer/Technology Skills *Standard Course of Study* adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in February 2004. The strands include the following: Societal/Ethical Issues; Database; Spreadsheet; Keyboard Utilization/Word Processing/ Desk Top Publishing; Multimedia/ Presentation; and

Telecommunications/Internet. The proficiency standard for the North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills requires that a student achieve a scale score of 150 or above. The standard was adopted by the SBE in March 2006.

Effective for the 2008–09 school year, select students are allowed to take the North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills as early as the fall of the sixth-grade year. Allowing this option to sixth- and seventh-graders is solely at the discretion of the LEA. If allowed, prior to registering any students (i.e., students at grades six and seven) to take the online test of computer skills, students and their parents/guardians must be made aware and understand that the North Carolina Online Test of Computer Skills is a test designed to measure the competencies of the K–8 Computer Skills Curriculum adopted by the State Board of Education in 2004 and is intended for grade-eight students.

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