

## ***NCEXTEND2 OCS Writing Assessment at Grade 10***

In response to guidance from the United States Department of Education, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has developed a system of alternate assessments in an effort to provide appropriate access and opportunity for students with disabilities. The North Carolina statewide testing program has been expanded to include ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** for high school students in several selected courses in the Occupational Course of Study. It is the expectation that ALL students who participate in ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** are receiving or have received instruction in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) for the subject(s) in which the students are being assessed.

To determine student participation in the ***NCEXTEND2 OCS Writing Assessment*** at grade 10, the following eligibility criteria must be considered:

- The student must have a current individualized education program (IEP);
- The student **DOES NOT** have a current 504 plan;
- The student, if identified as limited English proficient (LEP), must also have a current IEP;
- The student is enrolled or has been enrolled for credit in courses in the Occupational Course of Study which require an ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** assessment (Occupational Mathematics I, Occupational English I (reading), Life Skills Sciences I and II and the OCS writing assessment at grade 10); and
- For the ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** in writing, the student is assigned to grade 10 according to the student information management system (e.g. SIMS/NCWISE) and is following the Occupational Course of Study (OCS).

The decision to assess a student with ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** must be determined annually and documented as part of the IEP process. In addition, the decision to place a student in the ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** should not preclude a student from earning a North Carolina high school diploma.

Parents of students who are administered ***NCEXTEND2 OCS***, as part of the IEP team and as participants in the IEP process, are to be informed that their child's achievement will be measured using the ***NCEXTEND2 OCS*** assessment(s).

### **Writing Mode for the *NCEXTEND2 OCS Writing Assessment at Grade 10***

The ***NCEXTEND2 OCS Writing Assessment*** at grade 10 requires that the mode of writing assessed at grade 10 be aligned with the curriculum expectations as specified in the North Carolina *Occupational Course of Study*. The program will assess writing using the following mode:

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Type of Assessment</b>
10	Expressive mode (letters and journal entries)

## **Basic Facts about NCEXTEND2 Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Writing**

- Students at grade 10 who are participating in the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) take a writing assessment in March.
- Students write an expressive mode response (letters and journal entries).
- Approximately one and one half hours is allotted for this test. This includes time for test administration duties and, where appropriate, scheduled breaks.

*January 2007*