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STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**To:** Superintendents, District Test Coordinators, and Special Education Directors

**From:** Maridyth McBee, Assistant State Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability; Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent of Special Education Services; Kerri White, Assistant State Superintendent of Educational Support; Ramona Coats, Assistant State Superintendent of Federal Programs

**Date:** February 28, 2013

**RE:** Additional ACE End of Course (EOC) project options for students with disabilities

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) has been in a state of transition to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) since the adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in the Spring of 2010. **The purpose of this memo is to outline additional ACE End of Course project options for students with disabilities.**

The OSDE needs to provide additional options for students with disabilities that were unable to demonstrate content specific proficiency. These options were designed to better ensure that these students are not left behind and are more able to successfully meet ACE graduation requirements. The End Of Course Project options developed provides that opportunity.

End of Course projects have been developed into three separate categories. Students on IEPs (for all subjects) and LIEPs (for English II and III) who may struggle to show their knowledge and skills through a standardized assessment will have more options to fulfill ACE graduation requirements.

- **Category A:** These projects will be available to all students, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners.
- **Category B:** These projects will only be available to students on an IEP or an LIEP. The IEP or LIEP team must make a determination that this project is appropriate for a student based on the student's individual needs. IEP students will be allowed this option for all subjects. **Students on an LIEP are only allowed this option for English II and III.**
- **Category C:** These projects will only be available to students on an IEP who participate in the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP).

***2. End of Course projects will be re-developed for each subject area when the assessment for that subject changes.***

- The project will be continually revised and available to students until they are deemed no longer necessary.

***What do these changes mean for Oklahoma students with disabilities and assessments during SY 2013-14?***

- Core Instructions should focus on the new **Oklahoma C3 Standards**.
- Placement decisions should focus on the least restrictive environment that affords a student access to the **Oklahoma C3 Standards** and core content curriculum.
- Instructional and Assessment Accommodations should focus on providing appropriate access that does not decrease learning expectations.
- IEP status should not be *the* determining factor in selecting Category B or C projects. Assessment selections should be based on the individual needs of a student.