

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**January 2015**

CONSIDERATION OF MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM GRADE-LEVEL TESTING
ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 1:**

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

During the month of October 2014, panels of educators and stakeholders were convened online and in person by the states comprising the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to establish achievement level cut scores for the spring 2015 English language arts and mathematics grade-level assessments.

All Smarter Balanced states were actively involved in setting these new achievement levels. However, achievement levels must be approved by the State Board of Education in order for them to apply to Missouri students.

Teachers, parents, higher education faculty, business leaders, and other community members took part in a highly inclusive, consensus-based process that asked participants to closely examine assessment content and determine threshold scores for each achievement level. Educators who work with English language learners and students with disabilities were included to help ensure that the achievement levels would be fair and appropriate for all students.

The results of the standard setting conference will be covered during the presentation of this agenda item and are included in the attached materials.

PRESENTERS:

Sharon Helwig, Assistant Commissioner, and Michael J. Muenks, Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, Office of College and Career Readiness will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education approve the achievement levels and achievement level descriptors as presented.

General Information about Missouri's Grade-Level Assessments and the Achievement Level-Setting Process

A Brief Overview of Grade-Level Assessments

The grade-level assessment is a yearly standards-based test that measures specific skills defined for each grade by the state of Missouri. All students in grades 3-8 in Missouri public and charter schools take the grade-level assessments. English language arts (ELA) and mathematics are administered in grades 3-8. Science is administered in grades 5 and 8.

For the first time, the grade-level assessments will be administered online. Additionally, ELA and mathematics will be assessed using computer adaptive testing (CAT). This approach represents a significant improvement over traditional paper-and-pencil assessments by providing scores that are more accurate for all students across the full range of the achievement continuum in a shorter timeframe. Results will also be available earlier than in the past.

Definition of an "Achievement Level"

An achievement level is a description of student performance. Usually, this description is based on a test or assessment that allows students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and competencies. On MAP assessments, four achievement levels – Below Basic, Basic, Proficient and Advanced – are used to define student performance. Achievement levels based on test performance are determined by “cut scores.” A cut score is the test score a student must attain or exceed in order to be placed into the corresponding achievement level.

The Achievement-Level Setting Process

- The threshold scores for each achievement level were developed using a process that is considered the “gold standard” in determining what students should know and be able to do at any given achievement level. This process is referred to as the “bookmark” procedure.
 - The process included an in-person panel consisting of approximately 500 educators, higher education faculty, parents, and business and community leaders nominated by Missouri and the other states. Panel members went through assessment questions at each grade level and recommended points at which to set the achievement levels.
 - The panel included teachers of students with disabilities and English language learners to ensure the achievement levels would be fair and appropriate for all students.
 - An online panel was also provided to open the process to all who wanted to be part of this important effort.
 - The recommendations of both the in-person and online groups were reviewed by a “cross-grade” review committee that ensured that the achievement levels aligned appropriately across grades 3 through 8 and 11.
 - Finally, technical panels and an external auditor reviewed the recommendations before they were presented to states for approval.

Missouri End-of-Course Assessment Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts

Achievement Levels

Advanced (Level 4): Students performing at the Advanced level on the Missouri grade-level assessment consistently demonstrate a thorough understanding and ability to apply the English language arts and literacy knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Proficient (Level 3): Students performing at the Proficient level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate an adequate understanding of and ability to apply the English language arts and literacy knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in Missouri Learning Standards.

Basic (Level 2): Students performing at the Basic level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate a partial understanding of and ability to apply the English language arts and literacy knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Below Basic (Level 1): Students performing at the Below Basic level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate minimal understanding of and ability to apply the English language arts and literacy knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

ELA Scale Score Thresholds			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-to-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2367	2432	2490
4	2416	2473	2533
5	2442	2502	2582
6	2457	2531	2618
7	2479	2552	2649
8	2487	2567	2668
11	2493	2583	2682

Missouri Grade-Level Assessment Achievement Level Descriptors Mathematics

Achievement Levels

Advanced (Level 4): Students performing at the Advanced level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate a thorough understanding of—and ability to apply—the mathematics knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Proficient (Level 3): Students performing at the Proficient level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate adequate understanding of—and ability to apply—the mathematics knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Basic (Level 2): Students performing at the Basic level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate partial understanding of—and ability to apply—the mathematics knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Below Basic (Level 1): Students performing at the Below Basic level on the Missouri grade-level assessment demonstrate minimal understanding of—and ability to apply—the mathematics knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards.

Math Scale Score Thresholds			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-to-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2381	2436	2501
4	2411	2485	2549
5	2455	2528	2579
6	2473	2552	2610
7	2484	2567	2635
8	2504	2586	2653
11	2543	2628	2718



SETTING THE STANDARD MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Results of the Grade Level Assessment
Achievement Level Setting Conference
October 6-19, 2014

January 2015

Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

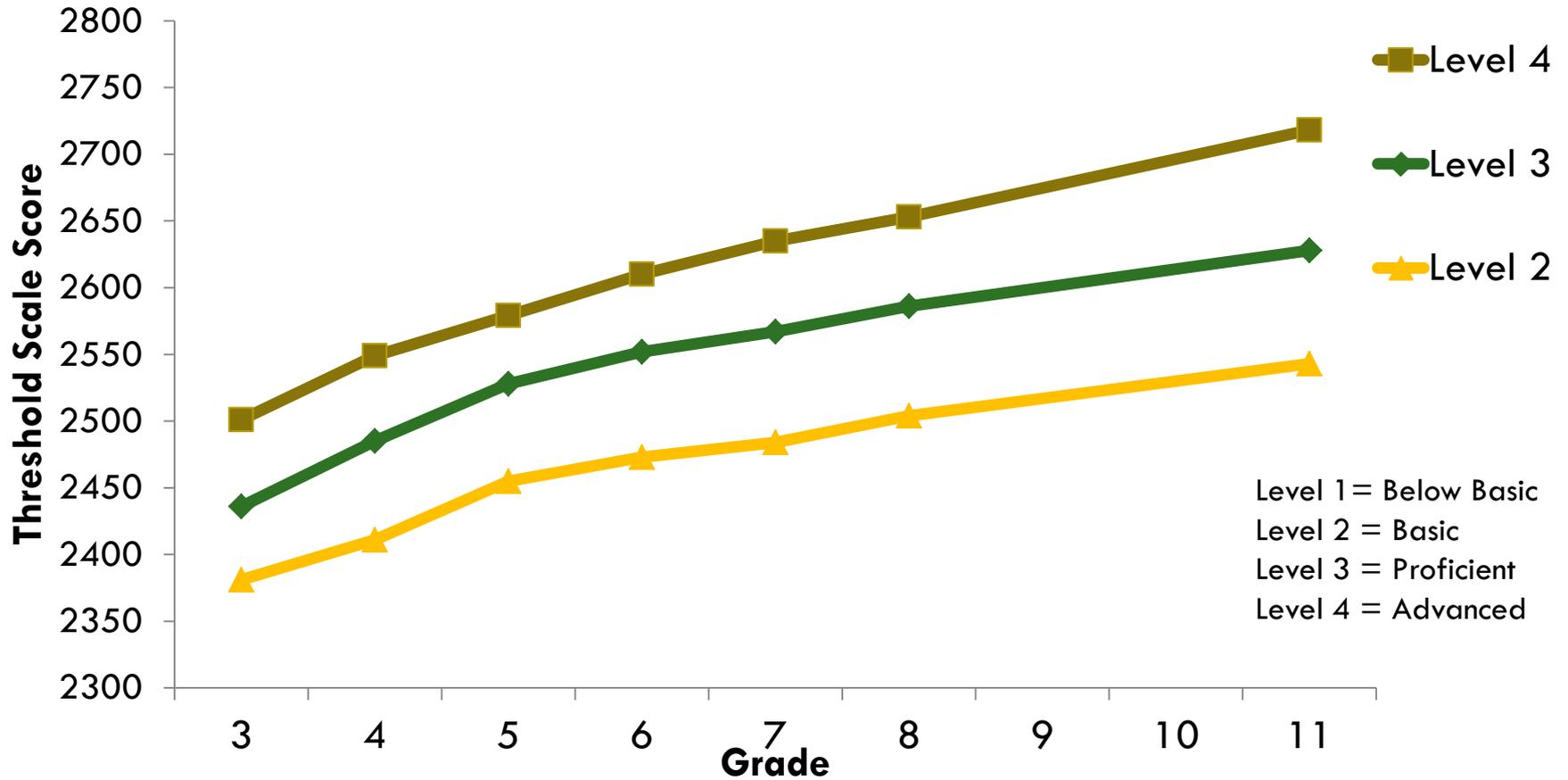
Setting the Standard

Grade-Level Assessments

- October 6-19 panels of educators and non-educators were convened by the states to establish achievement levels for the spring 2015 English language arts and mathematics Grade-Level Assessments.
 - Teachers, parents, higher education faculty, business leaders and other community members.
 - Participants closely examined assessment content to determine threshold scores for each achievement level.
 - Educators who work with English language learners and students with disabilities were included to ensure achievement levels are fair and appropriate for all students.

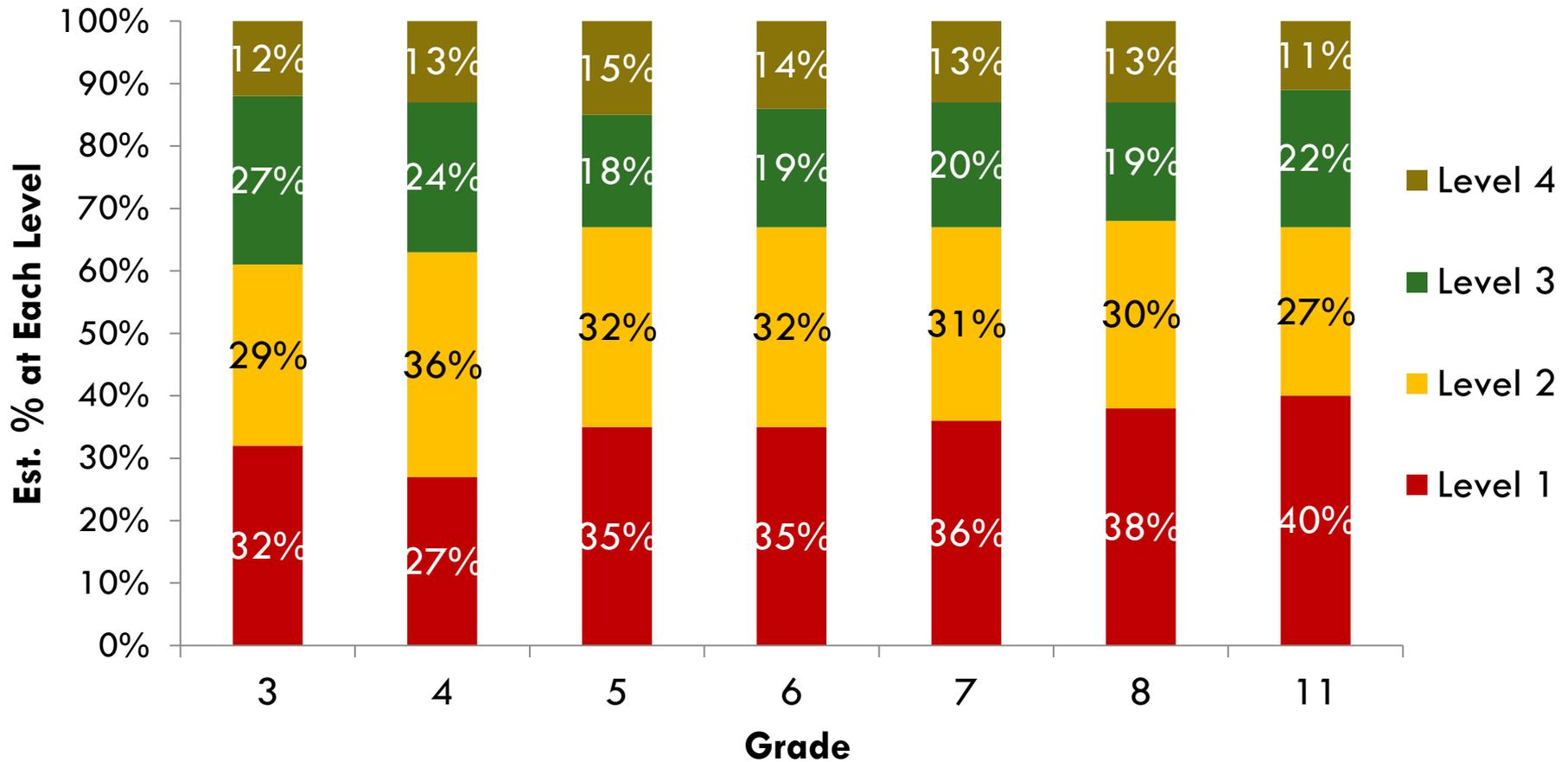


Mathematics: Threshold Scores



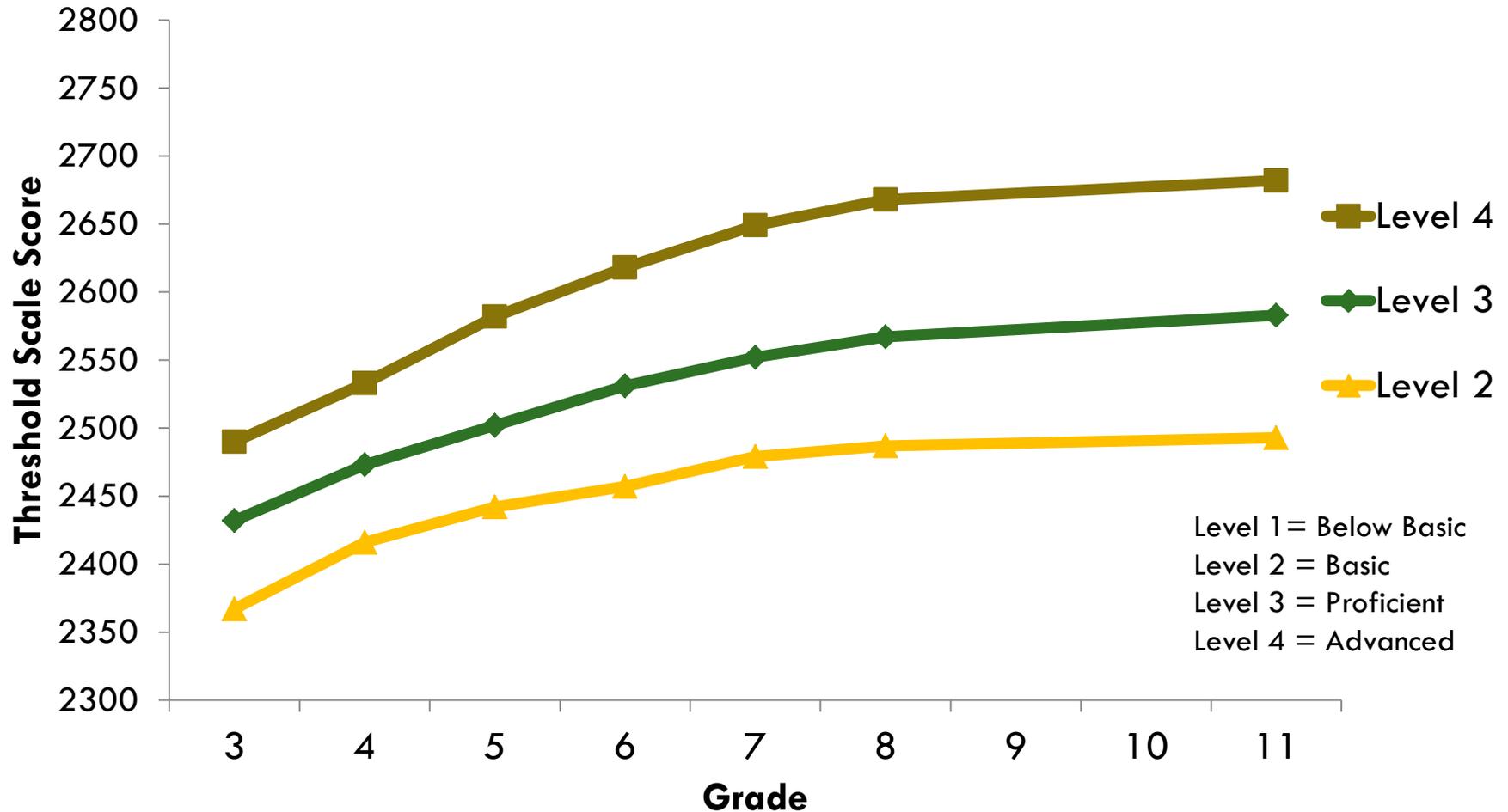
Approved by State Chiefs November 14, 2014

Mathematics: Estimated Percentage of Students at Each Achievement Level



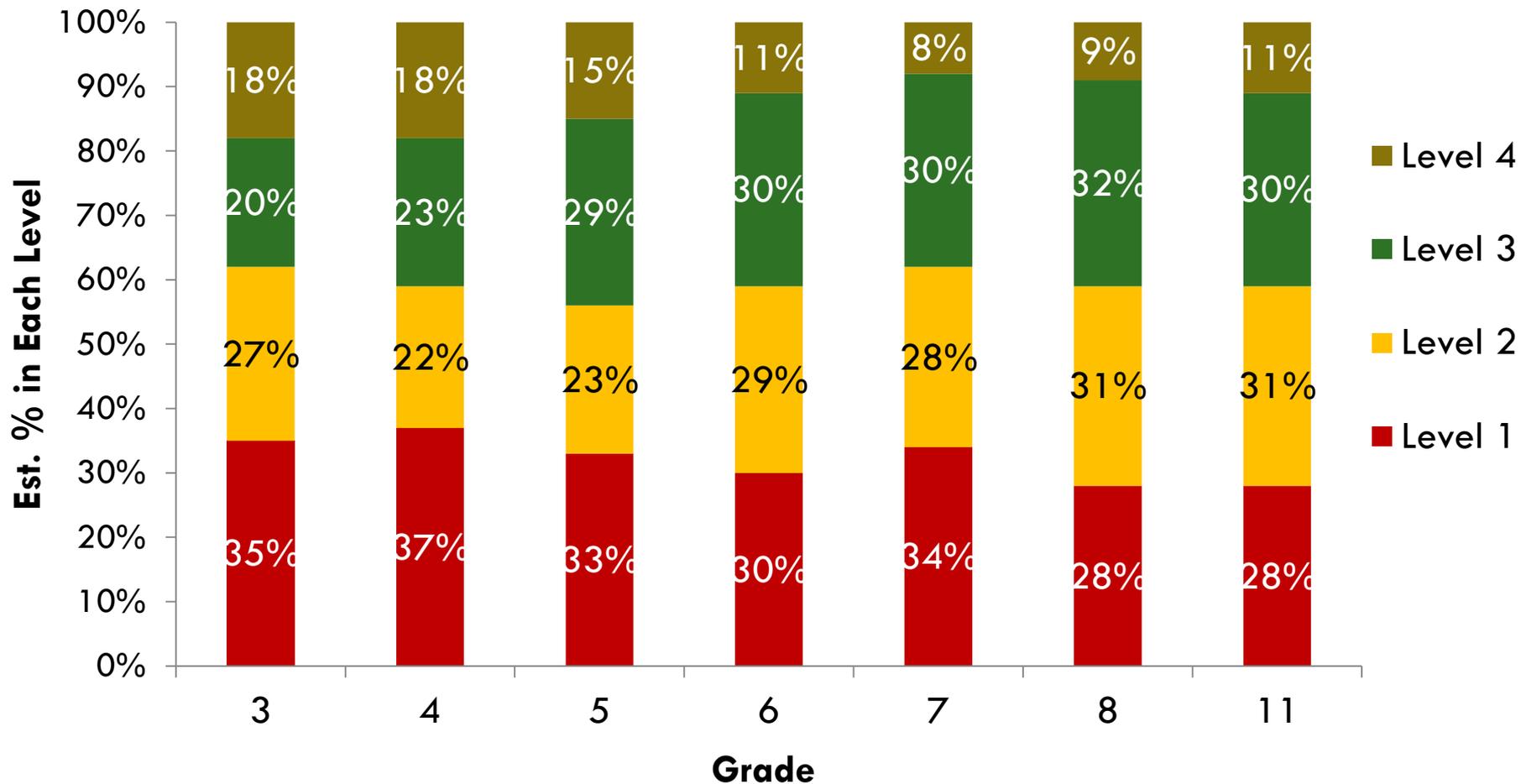
Estimates based on Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced field test conducted in 21 states and USVI.

English Language Arts/Literacy: Threshold Scale Scores



Approved by State Chiefs November 14, 2014

ELA/Literacy: Estimated Percentage of Students at Each Achievement Level



Estimates based on Spring 2014 Smarter Balanced field test conducted in 21 states and USVI.

Descriptors

- The recommendations of both the in-person and online groups were reviewed by a “cross-grade” review committee that ensures that the achievement levels align appropriately across grades 3-8 and 11.
- Technical panels and an external auditor reviewed the recommendations before they were presented to states for approval.
- State Chiefs met in November 2014 and approved the achievement levels.