Questions from (H) EDC from 3/19/2010

Regarding Workkeys and the HSGQE

1. The regulation reads if a student takes the Workkeys in 11th grade, then retakes in 12th grade but scores higher then it is paid for by EED, if they do not score has high then either the student or the district would pay. Is this accurate? If it is accurate, what is the cost per test the student or district would pay?

The original intent of 4 AAC 06.717 (e) was that the state would pay for a second administration of any or all of the WorkKeys tests (doesn't specify 11th or 12th grade) if before the 2nd WorkKeys administration the student has used the instructional courseware and has shown a gain of at least one skill level in the courseware (e.g. Billy gets a Level 3 on WorkKeys math, then gets a level 4 on the math placement test in WIN or KeyTrain.  Billy could then retake WorkKeys math at the state's expense, even if he ultimately gets a Level 3 on WorkKeys again.)   Having said that, after re-reading the regulation, I believe it could be interpreted as you state below (i.e., Billy has to use WIN or KeyTrain after his first WorkKeys test, but EED would pay for the 2nd WorkKeys test only if he gets at least a Level 4 on WorkKeys that 2nd time.)

**For students who want to retake WorkKeys, could they do that through the DOLWD?**

As I mentioned in my previous email, EED and DOLWD have agreed on a policy that students will take WorkKeys at their high schools, whether it is the first test administration or a re-test.  DOLWD will handle WorkKeys testing for its clients who are not in school.  DOLWD currently offers WorkKeys testing at 13 of its 22 Job Centers (<http://www.ajcn.state.ak.us/offices/index.html>).

2. Right now it says the test results will be in the cumulative file, correct? I don’t think we indicate it will be on transcript or diploma.

Correct -- the regulation says the WorkKeys scores will be kept in the cumulative record - nothing about transcript or diploma.

**3. How can employers get a record of a student's/job-seeker's WorkKeys scores?  Could DOLWD give WorkKeys scores to employers at students' request?**

DOLWD will only have a record of WorkKeys scores for its clients who tested at a Job Center, and will release scores only if authorized by the individual.  EED and each district will have a record of students’ WorkKeys scores.

There are several ways in which a student may provide his/her own WorkKeys information directly to an employer:

* + For each person (student or adult) who earns a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), which means they obtained at least a Level 3 on all three tests, ACT issues an actual paper certificate that shows the level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum), and the skills that were demonstrated. The student may show his/her certificate to an employer as part of the job application package or portfolio.
  + ACT also provides a website that a certificate-earner may use to allow employers to verify the certificate online.  [As an aside, ACT recommends that WorkKeys scores over 5 years old be considered out-of-date, although they no longer show an expiration date on the NCRC.]
  + Alaska DOLWD's Labor Exchange System (ALEXsys - <http://alexsys.labor.state.ak.us/> ) now provides a place for job applicants to list their WorkKeys NCRC level.  All Alaska residents, including students, may establish an account in ALEXsys and keep track of their work history, education, certificates, skills, resumes, etc.  Employers may search in ALEXsys for job candidates with a specific level of NCRC.  Additionally, DOLWD is currently mounting a statewide outreach and education campaign to let Alaska employers know about WorkKeys and the NCRC (<http://www.careerready.alaska.gov/employers.html> for more info.)

**4. How would WorkKeys information on a student transcript or cumulative record look?**

**It might look something like this:**

**WorkKeys Assessments**

Applied Math - Level 4 (September 7, 2009)

Reading for Information - Level 3 (January 15, 2010)

Locating Information - Level 5 (April 28, 2010)

National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) - Bronze Level (issued May 5, 2010)

For more information about WorkKeys and the NCRC, please see <http://www.act.org/certificate/index.html>

5. Information during the hearing was presented about the 12th grade class in 2008. Questions were asked about the data presented; those questions are in red, and the responses in green.

Class of 2008 Analysis

Number of grade 12 non-graduates 2787

Number of grade 12 students coded by district as drops 1250

Did any of these 1250 return and graduate since?

Yes - 82

Number of grade 12 continuing students (intend to attend in 08-09) 1537

Did these students return and graduate since?

Yes - 424

Number of grade 12 non-graduates passing all parts of exam 1926 (69.1%)

Did any of these graduate due to passing local requirements since 2008?

Yes - 452

Number of grade 12 students who earned certificate of achievement 270\*

*\*Number not included in grade 12 non-graduates*

Did any of these return and take the HSGQE and earn a diploma?

Yes – 11

6. One member of the committee asked for items sampler / practice tests from the HSGQE, those are attached to the email.