

Students: Clatsop County students performed strongest in English

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"For the first time, we have a clear picture of students' progress on their path to college and career readiness," the state's Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor said in a release Thursday. "These results represent a new baseline for our state, underscoring the work we must do together to ensure students reach this higher bar. Providing all students with critical supports and high-quality instruction must remain our top priority."

In 2010, the State Board of Education signed on to the new Common Core State Standards, an effort to toughen national standards to be globally competitive. Oregon educators feared too many students were graduating without necessary skills, with nearly three-quarters of graduates under the old standards taking remedial courses in college, lessening their chances of earning a degree or credential.

The new Smarter Balanced exams replaced past multiple choice, rote memory tests, making students write, reason, think critically and solve mul-

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— Salam Noor
Oregon's deputy superintendent

tiple problems the state said better aligned with classroom learning in the real world.

Individual results from the Smarter Balanced exam will be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

Math flummoxes

Clatsop County and Oregon students need the most work in mathematics. The only grades for which more than half the group was college- or career-ready in math were seventh- and eighth-graders in Astoria; and third-, fourth- and eighth-graders in Jewell, in which data can be heavily skewed by the smaller number of students.

In the most striking results,

only 9 percent of high school juniors in Astoria were college- and career-ready in math, along with 8 percent in Jewell and 5 percent in Knappa. The state average for 11th-graders was 30 percent, with Seaside and Warrenton performing comparably.

Similar to state results, Clatsop County students performed strongest in English and language arts.

Nearly 80 percent of 11th-graders in Astoria scored 3 or 4, while every grade level in every district countywide met or exceeded expectations. Astoria and Seaside students both exceeded state averages in 11th and eighth grade.

On average, slightly more than half of students in Clatsop

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County tested college- and career ready in science, with the county largely dragging behind state averages.

The results essentially provide a starting point for students trying to meet tougher Common Core State Standards.

And 19 years down the road, the state's ambitious 40-40-20 goal comes due. By 2025, under Oregon Senate Bill 253, 40 percent of Oregonians should have a bachelor's degree or higher, 40 percent an associate degree or certificate in a skilled occupation and everyone at least a high school diploma or its equivalent credential.

And like on Common Core State Standards, there's a lot of work to do. So far, about 31 percent of Oregonians have a bachelor's or higher, 36 percent an associate or certificate, 24 percent with a high school diploma and 9 percent with less than a diploma.

New assessment testing results for Clatsop County schools

The first results are back from Oregon's new Smarter Balanced exams. The percentages below reflect the number of students who scored 3 or better on a scale of 0 to 4, with 3 or 4 being the desired score. For more information on Smarter Balanced test results, go to: www.ode.state.or.us/

School district	English/ language arts	Mathematics	Science
Astoria			
5th	47.1%	36.6%	56.4%
8th	64.8	53.1	65.4
11th	77.7	9.1	32.7
Seaside			
5th	47	33.3	59.1
8th	67.3	47.4	61.2
11th	66	32	44.3
Warrenton-Hammond			
5th	48.4	37.1	68.3
8th	53.5	35.2	57.7
11th	55.4	30.4	48.2
Knappa			
5th	51.6	32.3	51.6
8th	35.1	27	52.8
11th	42.3	5.3	53.3
Jewell			
5th	33.3	33.3	41.7
8th	83.3	54.5	83.3
11th	58.3	8.3	33.3
State average			
5th	53.6	40.8	65.5
8th	57	42.9	63.5
11th	67.2	30.5	60.8

Source: Oregon Dept. of Education Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

LNG: Letter reflects public concern about the review process

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"This project in particular has attracted more local interest than any other LNG facility in the country, with the possible exception of Cove Point in Maryland," U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici wrote in a letter to the commission. "We have consistently reassured (residents) that throughout this process, their voices will have a chance to become part of the official record."

The Democratic lawmakers requested that the public comment period, which is set to expire Oct. 6, be extended 60 days to early December.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued the draft environmental impact statement on the Oregon LNG project in August, finding that construction and operation of the terminal and pipeline would adversely impact the environment.

But the draft review concluded that the project's impacts to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and other areas of concern would be reduced to less-than-significant

levels if Oregon LNG takes the mitigation measures the energy company has proposed, and additional measures recommended by commission staff.

A two-part public meeting for comments on the draft statement will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Monday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall.

The commission is still completing the environmental review on Oregon LNG and is scheduled to release the final document in February.

'A good step'

North Coast residents have increasingly pressured federal and state officials to voice their opinion on the LNG project.

While the letter from Wyden, Merkley and Bonamici does not take a policy position on whether the project is suitable for Warrenton, the move does reflect public concern about the review process.

"The Oregon LNG Project has been in development more than 10 years and gone through several iterations. A

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project of this size and scope certainly merits careful consideration," the lawmakers wrote. "A thorough stakeholder conversation will ensure everyone's interests and values and livelihoods are represented and honored."

Mary O'Driscoll, director of media relations at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said Friday she is unsure whether the commissioners have received the request but said the commission's policy is not to respond to letters in the media.

Dan Serres, conservation director at Columbia Riverkeeper, the Hood River-based environmental group opposing the LNG project, said an extension would be a "good step for the public process."

"As we dig into (FERC's draft environmental impact statement) more, we realize the public comment period is too short," he said. He added that he was going to send a similar letter to the commission. "Now I can send it

in support of what (Wyden, Merkley and Bonamici) have written."

Oregon LNG could not immediately be reached for comment.

City review on separate track

Two weeks ago, the city of Warrenton's planning staff recommended the approval of Oregon LNG's permit application to develop the terminal and pipeline.

Hundreds of concerned citizens — overwhelmingly opponents of the LNG project



U.S. Sen.
Jeff Merkley



U.S. Sen.
Ron Wyden



U.S. Rep.
Suzanne Bonamici

— turned out for a two-night public hearing on the permit applications at the Warrenton Community Center.

Supporters, almost uniformly, cited the need for jobs and a boost to the local economy, whereas opponents argued the project would imperil tourism, further congest

highway vehicular traffic, harm the natural environment, magnify the risks associated with a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami, and generally blight the North Coast.

The city is awaiting a decision on the permits from the hearings officer.

Actors join campaign to draw attention to drilling in the Arctic

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — Critics of Arctic offshore petroleum drilling have used climbing gear, kayaks and polar bear costumes to protest industrial activity in the Arctic. They're now trying humor.

Actors Alexander Skarsgard of "True Blood" and Jack McBrayer of "30 Rock," along with Andy Bichlbaum of "The Yes Men" activists, are on a Greenpeace ship in the Greenland Sea with a team from the Funny or Die production company to make a comedy series focused on industrial threats to the Arctic.

"It's really important that we reach as many people as possible with the message that the Arctic deserves our protection — it's not just another resource to be exploited until it's exhausted and broken," Greenpeace Arctic campaigner Sune Scheller said by email Thursday from the Arctic sunset, a 160-foot Greenpeace icebreaker.

Arctic waters, once mostly ignored, are attracting attention as summer sea ice has diminished, expanding opportunities for tourism, shipping and exploratory petroleum drilling. The National Snow and Ice Data Center on Tuesday said the Arctic hit its summer minimum last week with 1.7 million square miles of



Chris Pizzello/AP Photo/File

Alexander Skarsgard, a cast member in the film "Battleship," waves at the American premiere of the film in Los Angeles in 2012. Critics of Arctic offshore petroleum drilling have used climbing gear, kayaks and polar bear costumes to protest industrial activity in the Arctic. They're now trying humor.

sea ice, down 240,000 square miles from 2014. It's the fourth-lowest level on record for summer sea ice in September.

Environmental groups say burning oil extracted from the Arctic Ocean seabed will accelerate climate warming and that industrialization will harm polar bears, walrus, whales and ice seals.

Margaret Williams, Arctic program director for World Wildlife Fund, said Arctic awareness has increased as Americans experience extreme weather events.

"Increasingly, Americans understand that the impacts of the extreme weather events — drought and floods

and crazy winter storms that they're experiencing in the Lower 48 — are related to the changes in the Arctic," she said.

The declaration of the polar bear as a threatened species in 2008 played a part, she said, as did worldwide photos of 35,000 walrus hauled out last September on northwest Alaska beach because of a lack of sea ice.

Arctic issues reached an apex two weeks ago, she said, when President Barack Obama, on a trip to Alaska to draw attention climate warming, became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the Arctic. Eroding Alaska villages, he noted, were once protected by sea ice.




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CMH Women's Center
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