Competency Measures Project

August 5, 2011

Utah State law 53A-13-108 and State Board of Education rule R277-705-3C require school districts to provide students with the opportunity to earn credit by demonstrating competency. While many districts have existing systems in place to measure student competency, others may opt to use the Demonstrated Competency Assessments developed by the multi-district "Competency Measures" steering committee. These Demonstrated Competency Assessments (DCAs) are **designed for students who come to school already prepared with the knowledge and skills they would otherwise gain through coursework**. Districts wishing to use the Demonstrated Competency Assessments to aide them in awarding high school credit are expected to use the following guidelines:

- Offer DCAs to high school students with prerequisite skills (each assessment may be taken only once per school year).
- Award students required/elective credit for passing DCAs. Students earn .50 credit for all semester courses and 1.0 credit for all full year courses.
- Allow **students with prerequisite skills** to access DCAs to accelerate their education.
- Discuss the use of DCAs as a means of earning credit toward graduation. This may be an integral part of the SEOP process.
- Record a "P" for demonstrated competency - **no letter grades are awarded.**

Procedures for districts using Demonstrated Competency Assessments:

- Students submit a written request for DCAs to their school counselor.
- The school counselor or student contacts a Regional Testing Center to notify them of the student's authorization to test. **Regional Testing Centers are located in Salt Lake City, St. George, Roosevelt, Springville, Heber, and Ogden.**
- A non-refundable fee of $85.00 is charged for each assessment (total battery, not individual sections). Students must present ID and payment at the testing appointment. Local school boards determine whether or not fees are subject to fee waivers.
- **A minimum of 30 days** is required for assessing, scoring, and reporting the results of DCAs. Two copies of test results are mailed to the school counselor once results have been determined. One copy of the results is given to the student while the other remains in the student's permanent file.
- Individual districts award credit to students who have demonstrated competency.

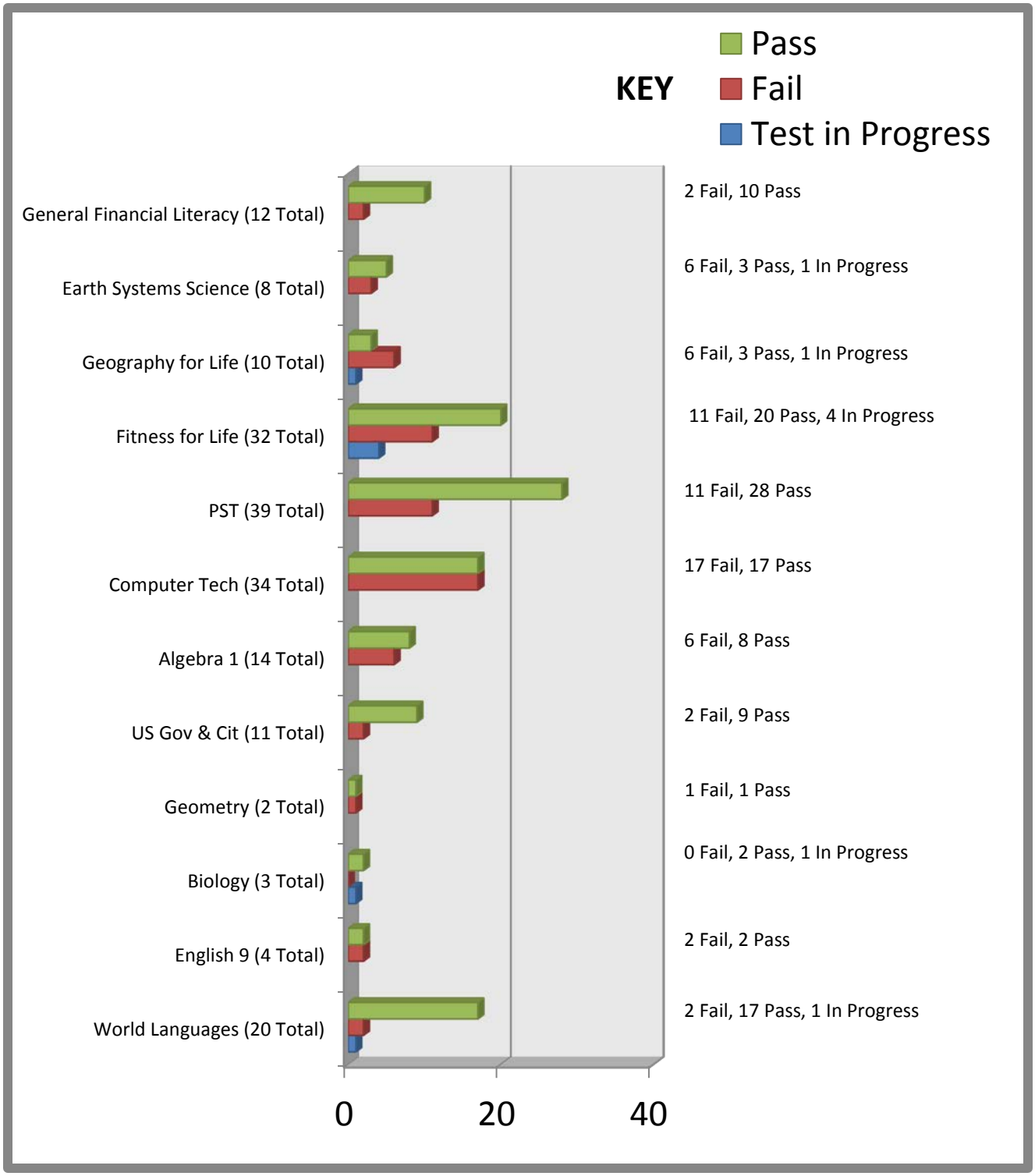
Project Funding:

- $162,157 from Mineral Lease-district revenue 3716 and program 5616 awarded in 2006 to develop assessments, project guidelines, and supervise implementation.
- $32,500 from Professional Development-State Appropriation-district revenue 9718 and program 5618 awarded in 2011 to oversee state-wide program and development.
- **AVERAGE ANNUAL PROGRAM COST = $35, 392**

For additional information on the project visit:
http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/main/graduation/Competancy_Measurements/index.htm

DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE DATA TO DATE

Demonstrated Competency Assessment Total as of August 1, 2011: 195
Demonstrated Competency Assessment Overall Pass Rate as of August 1, 2011: 65.9%

39 Districts Served; 28 Charter Schools Served

DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCY BREAKDOWN