



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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March 31, 2015

Monique M. Chism
 Director, Office of State Support
 United States Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue SW
 Washington, DC 20202

Dear Director Chism:

On behalf of all local education agencies (LEAs) in Washington, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is submitting a request to waive accountability determinations based on achievement results for assessments administered during the 2014–15 school year, per a directive from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), received on February 27, 2015.

Washington applies for this waiver to permit the state to continue in 2015–16 the improvement status that a school or LEA has for the 2014–15 school year and permit the school or LEA to continue implementing the same interventions that it is using this year if the reason for missing adequate yearly progress (AYP), based on 2014–15 assessments is due to achievement in reading/language arts or mathematics in the school or LEA. OSPI will calculate AYP based on 2014–15 proficiency, participation and other indicator (graduation and attendance rates) and report this information publicly.

Washington has set the following annual measurable objectives (AMOs) in reading and mathematics, as identified in our State Accountability Workbook.

State Intermediate Achievement Goals, 2002–16 Goals for Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced in Reading/Mathematics Graduation and Attendance Rate Goals

Subject/ Grades	School Years														
	01–02	02–03	03–04	04–05	05–06	06–07	07–08	08–09	09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13	13–14	14–15	15–16
READING															
Elementary	52.2%			64.2%			76.1%			88.1%			100%	100%	100%
Middle	30.1%			47.6%			65.1%			82.5%			100%	100%	100%
High School	48.6%			61.5%			74.3%			87.2%			100%	100%	100%
MATH															
Elementary	29.7%			47.3%			64.9%		58.0%		79.0%		100%	100%	100%
Middle	17.3%			38.0%			58.7%			79.3%			100%	100%	100%
High School	24.8%			43.6%			62.4%			81.2%			100%	100%	100%
Graduation	66%	66%	66%	66%	67%	68%	69%	70%	73%	76%	79%	82%	85%	85%	85%
Unexcused Absence Rate	<1%														

Washington Plan

Washington will determine AYP based on assessments administered during the 2014–15 school year in accordance with the requirements of Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Washington will publicly report the results of the assessments, including against AMOs; however, the state will assign the same school ratings and permit its schools and LEAs to continue the same interventions that are being used in the 2014–15 school year. Washington will resume annually assigning schools a new rating based on the 2015–16 assessments.

Per the USDE directive, Washington understands that all schools and LEAs previously identified for improvement must continue to implement interventions consistent with Section 1116 of the ESEA. Schools and LEAs that do not make AYP based on participation rate, graduation rate, or attendance rate in elementary and middle schools would advance to offer the next level of interventions.

Safe Harbor Calculations

The state will calculate Safe Harbor consistent with the method described in the State's current [Accountability Workbook](#), dated June 6, 2014.

Assurance

Washington hereby provides an assurance that OSPI will resume annual accountability determinations from state assessments administered in the 2015–16 school year.

Timeline for Publicly Reporting AYP Designations

The annual AYP reports will be issued in a manner consistent with all [reporting requirements](#), dated June 6, 2014.

Outlined in the chart below, Washington has provided a timeline for publicly reporting AYP designations and the results of the assessments, including achievement against AMOs. Washington's timeline was established to provide information to parents and the public as soon as possible, so that parents have a meaningful opportunity to take advantage of any interventions that result from accountability determinations.

Timeline for publicly reporting AYP designations and the results of the assessments, including achievement against AMOs		
Testing	Grade and Subject	Administration Windows
Online Administration of Smarter Balanced State Assessments in English/Language Arts and Mathematics	Grade 3 ELA	March 10–April 23, 2015
	Grade 3 Math Grades 4–8 ELA and Math	Must be administered within the last 12 weeks of the school year: March 10–June 15, 2015
	Grade 11 ELA and Math	Must be administered within the last 7 weeks of the school year: April 6–June 15, 2015
Paper/pencil Administration of Smarter Balanced State Assessments in English/Language Arts and Mathematics	Grade 3 ELA	March 10–April 15, 2015
	Grade 3 Math Grades 4–8 ELA and Math	Must be administered within the last 12 weeks of the school year: March 10–May 20, 2015
	Grade 11 ELA and Math	Must be administered within the last 3 weeks of the school year: No later than May 30, 2015
Reporting	Responsibility	Dates (no later than)
Preliminary AYP Report Issued	OSPI	August 10, 2015
Comment and Review Period	Schools and LEAs	August 10–August 21, 2015
Final AYP Reports Issued	OSPI	August 25, 2015
Improvement Notices Disseminated to LEAS	OSPI	August 26, 2015
Statewide News Release	OSPI	August 27, 2015
Parent Notifications	Schools and LEAs	September 1–September 11, 2015

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Washington provided all LEAs in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. Washington provided such notice by sending email correspondence to each superintendent, Title I director, and assessment director on March 17, 2015 (see copy of notice attached), and posting the notice on the department’s website. Washington provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which Washington customarily provides such notice and information to the public.

Please feel free to contact Gayle Pauley, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs and Federal Accountability at 360-725-6170 or gayle.pauley@k12.wa.us, if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

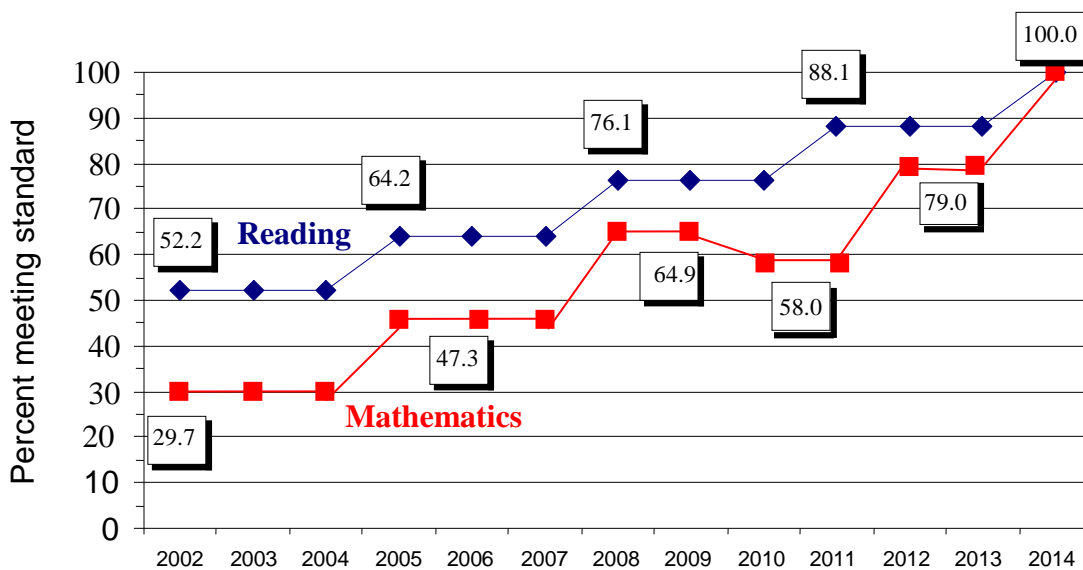


Gayle Pauley
Assistant Superintendent
Special Programs and Federal Accountability

- Attachment A: Reading and Mathematics AMOs
- Attachment B: Copy of District Notice and District Comments
- Attachment C: Copy of Public Notice and Public Comment

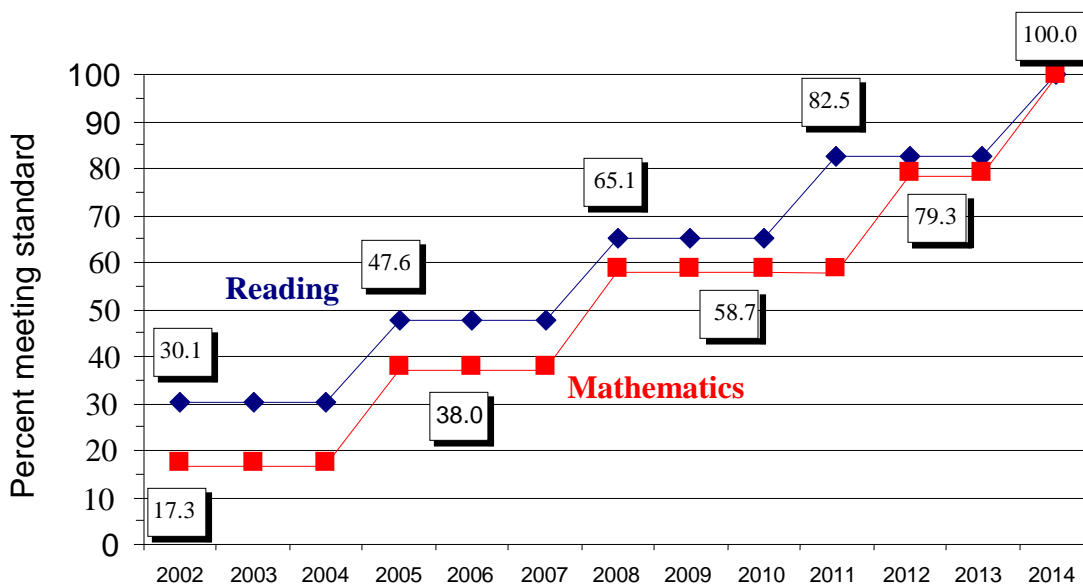
Reading and Mathematics AMOs

Elementary Uniform Bar (3–5)



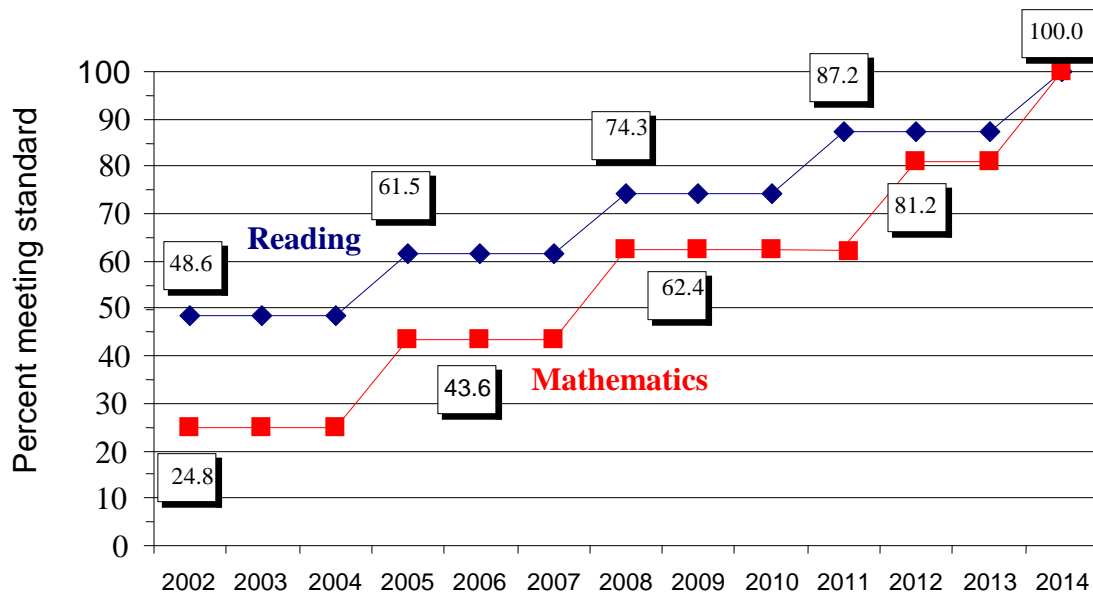
NOTE: The state uniform bar changed for 2010–13 based upon new cut scores on the mathematics assessments.

Middle School Uniform Bar (6-8)



NOTE: The state uniform bar changed for 2010–13 based upon new cut scores on the mathematics assessments.

High School Uniform Bar



NOTE: The state uniform bar changed for 2011 based upon new cut scores on the high school mathematics assessment.

Copy of District Notice and District Comments

District Notice

Notice to public school districts of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI's) intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for a waiver, Accountability Determinations Based on Achievement Results for Assessments Administered in the 2014–15 School Year.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to notify Washington public school districts of the state's intent to request this waiver. Districts are asked to provide comment on the waiver request to OSPI. Comments from districts will be included in OSPI's request to the USDE.

Please send comments to Carrie Hert at carrie.hert@k12.wa.us, by close of business on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Washington's Waiver Request

Washington through OSPI requests a waiver of the Title I, Part A requirement for the state to permit the state to continue in 2015–16 the improvement status that a school or local education agency (LEA) has for the 2014–15 school year. The request would permit schools or districts to continue implementing the same interventions that it is using this year if the reason for missing adequate yearly progress (AYP), based on 2014–15 assessments is due to achievement in reading/language arts or mathematics in the school or district. OSPI will calculate AYP based on 2014–15 proficiency, participation and other indicator (graduation and attendance rates) and report this information publicly.

Washington's Plan

Washington will determine AYP based on assessments administered during the 2014–15 school year in accordance with the requirements of Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Washington will publicly report the results of the assessments, including against AMOs, however, the state will assign the same school ratings and permit its schools and districts to continue the same interventions that are being used in the 2014–15 school year. Washington will resume annually assigning schools a new rating based on the 2015–16 assessments.

Per the USDE directive, Washington understands that all schools and districts previously identified for improvement must continue to implement interventions consistent with Section 1116 of the ESEA. Schools and districts that do not make AYP based on participation rate, graduation rate, or attendance rate in elementary and middle schools would advance to offer the next level of interventions.

Assurance

Washington hereby provides an assurance that OSPI will resume annual accountability determinations from state assessments administered in the 2015–16 school year.

District Comments

We support this decision, thank you somuch. Sincerely, Supt. Krestin
Krestin Bahr, Superintendent
Eatonville School District #404
Ph: 360-879-1000
Krestin_bahr@eatonville.wednet.edu

What happens to PSC and SES if waiver is granted?
Mary Jo Buckingham, Ph.D.
Director of Special Programs
Central Valley School District
19307 E. Cataldo
Spokane Valley, WA 99016
TEL. 509-228-5426
MBuckingham@cvsd.org

I approve the Washington's Waiver Request. This is a good thing!
Richard Johnson, Superintendent
Okanogan School District #105
March 17, 2015
rjohnson@oksd.wednet.edu

This sounds great to me. Given the new standards and assessments, I don't know how we could defend professionally using this year's test data to indicated progress or lack of progress toward AYP.
Dr. Stephen Holland, Superintendent, Raymond Schools
1016 Commercial Street, Raymond WA 98577
360.942.3415: 855.282.7296
sholland@raymondk12.org

Acquiring the waiver will eliminate SES. This program has proven to be ineffective in improving student learning. It locks up district Title I funds that could be used for other more effective interventions. Let the local district decide what to do with the Title I funds, not some outside agency that has no connection to our students.
Mike Nollan
Assistant Superintendent
Ellensburg School District
Mike.nollan@eburg.wednet.edu

Onalaska School District supports OSPI's efforts to waive the NCLB requirements for school districts in Washington State.

Schools are not failing in Washington. Onalaska Middle School is a great example of the work that is occurring to turnaround a failing school. However, under current rules (NCLB), OMS will be considered a "failing" school based on AYP. That is a problem for me as well as my teachers and my community. We are celebrating the ending of our RAD designation, but will turnaround and tell our community that our schools are failing, based on AYP.

Please consider Onalaska School District as a strong supporter of the waiver.

Jeff Davis

Superintendent

jdavis@onysd.wednet.edu

I received notification about the Title 1 waiver process for this school year. My district lost funds for 10 years from 2003-12. We were told that we could have Title 1 funds starting the 2013 school year. The amount offered was less than what we received in 2002. I have not accepted any Title 1 funds since 2002. I am assuming that I would not have to apply for a waiver.

Scott Hubbard

Superintendent

Carbonado School

shubbard@carbonado.k12.wa.us

Bethel School District lends its support to Washington State's request for a waiver of the Title I, Part A permitting the state to continue in 2015–16 the improvement status that a school or local education agency (LEA) has for the 2014–15 school year. The request would permit our school district to continue implementing the same interventions that it is using this year if the reason for missing adequate yearly progress (AYP), based on 2014–15 assessments is due to achievement in reading/language arts or mathematics in the school or district. OSPI will calculate AYP based on 2014–15 proficiency, participation and other indicator (graduation and attendance rates) and report this information publicly.

We believe additional years of SBAC data will provide us with better information about the needs of our students.

Submitted on behalf of Supt. Tom Seigel by: Dr. Ann Varkados, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning

Dr. Ann Varkados, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

253-683-6017

253-683-6016

avarkados@bethelsd.org

The proposal seems appropriate given the conversion to SBAC this year. My greater concern is that the challenges we will face moving forward with progress on the SBAC in 15-16 are unknown entirely. We will have to revisit what constitutes acceptable growth in the new assessment environment, especially for Title I schools.

The waiver language as presented is as good as can be expected under the current political realities.

Erik Swanson, PhD
Superintendent
Omak School District #19
509-826-0320
eswanson@omaksd.org

Our district is supportive of the waiver as SES is difficult. Our concern is that other states have requested waiver for ELL students who have been in program less than 3years from Federal accountability. I believe the state of Florida is one who included the waiver for ELL.

Pete Knittle
Director Federal Programs
Othello School District
(509)488-2659 ext.1014
pknittle@othello.wednet.edu

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this waiver request that if approved, “would permit the state to continue in 2015-16 the improvement status that a school or local education agency (LEA) has for the 2014–15 school year. The request would permit schools or districts to continue implementing the same interventions that it is using this year if the reason for missing adequate yearly progress (AYP), based on 2014–15 assessments is due to achievement in reading/language arts or mathematics in the school or district. OSPI will calculate AYP based on 2014–15 proficiency, participation and other indicator (graduation and attendance rates) and report this information publicly.”

As noted in the statement above, and if I understand the intentions of the waiver correctly, this would have a positive impact on morale and improvement efforts in the affected schools, especially those who did not meet AYP’s 100% proficiency bar in Math and/or Reading, but due to missing data and the 100% proficiency bar, must move deeper into school improvement, even though it does not reflect the fact that they have been working hard to implement effective interventions to support their struggling students.

I would like to thank OSPI for requesting this waiver and would like to join many other educators in supporting any waiver that reduces (or removes) punitive actions and provides support for realistic school improvement efforts that are not tied to time-wasting (and money-wasting) sanctions.

Judi Jensen
Title I Director Services
North Central Educational Services District
509.771.1693
judij@ncesd.org

I support waiver request.
Mike Kirby
Superintendent
Tumwater School District
360-709-7000
mike.kirby@tumwater.k12.wa.us

In favor.
Andy Wolf, Superintendent
Yelm Community Schools
360-458-1900
Andy_wolf@ycs.wednet.edu

Ok.
Mike Parker, Superintendent
Hoquiam School District
360-538-8200
mparker@hoquiam.k12.wa.us

I support this waiver request.
Kim Fry, Superintendent
Rochester School District
360-273-5536
kfry@rochester.wednet.edu

Montesano supports this.
Dan Winter, Superintendent
Montesano School District
360-249-3942
dwinter@monteschools.org

Pioneer School District supports this request.
Martin Brewer, Superintendent
Pioneer School District
360-426-9115
mbrewer@psd402.org

I support this.
Doris Bolender, Principal/Superintendent
Southside School District
360-426-8437

McCleary School District supports this waiver request.
Tita Mallory, Superintendent
McCleary School District
360-495-3204
tmallory@mcclery.wednet.edu

I support this.
Kyle MacDonald, Superintendent
Pe Ell & Evaline School Districts
360-785-3460
kmacdonald@evalinesd.k12.wa.us

I support this.
Chuck Wyborne, Superintendent
White Pass School District
360-497-3791
Cwyborne@whitepass.k12.wa.us

I support this request.
John Hannah, Superintendent
Morton School District
360-496-5300
jhannah@morton.k12.wa.us

Raymond School District would like to do this for both Raymond Elementary and Raymond Jr./Sr. High.
Stephen Holland, Superintendent
Raymond School District
360-942-3415
sholland@raymondk12.org

I like this idea, it seems fair. Especially not being sure how our students will score on Smarter Balance.
Bedey Geahert, teacher
Mary Walker School District
509-258-4534

I support the WA waiver request as described above.
Victoria Hodge, Director of Special Programs
Quincy School District
509-787-4571

I support this request.
Israel Vela, Executive Director of Schools
Seattle School District
206-252-0396

Looks good.
Ian Linterman, Special Programs Director
Mount Baker School District
360-383-2000

Approve.
Linda Hall, Superintendent
Granite Falls School District
360-691-7717
lhall@gfalls.wednet.edu

Clarify, if in Step 1, will school remain in Step 1 even if meet AYP? Is it either or?
Frozen or possibly move out of AYP? Is there any implication of “opt out” movement
with AYP, with participation rates?

Jennifer Ledhetter
Bremerton School District

Copy of Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice for OSPI Title I Waiver Request to U.S. Department of Education for the 2014–15 School Year.

Notice to the public of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for a waiver for Accountability Determinations Based on Achievement Results for Assessments Administered in the 2014–15 School Year.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to notify Washington's citizens of the state's intent to request this waiver. Members of the public are asked to provide comment on the waiver request to OSPI. Comments from the public will be included in OSPI's request to the USDE.

Please send comments to Carrie Hert at carrie.hert@k12.wa.us, by close of business on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Washington's Waiver Request

Washington through OSPI requests a waiver of the Title I, Part A requirement for the state to permit the state to continue in 2015–16 the improvement status that a school or local education agency (LEA) has for the 2014–15 school year. The request would permit schools or districts to continue implementing the same interventions that it is using this year if the reason for missing adequate yearly progress (AYP), based on 2014–15 assessments is due to achievement in reading/language arts or mathematics in the school or district. OSPI will calculate AYP based on 2014–15 proficiency, participation and other indicator (graduation and attendance rates) and report this information publicly.

Public Comments

I agree.

Sandra Barton Smith
Archdiocese of Seattle
Office of Catholic Schools