



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Randy I. Dorn Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

January 7, 2011

Dear Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana:

RE: Request to:

1. Replace the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) with mathematics end-of-course (EOC) tests.
2. Accept the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1/Make-up Year 1 mathematics assessments for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations, but for students who have already completed Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1, substitute the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 test for AYP calculations.
3. Waive Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Notice Requirement for Public School Choice for 2011–12 School Year.

I am writing on behalf of Washington State to explain a change to our accountability test in high school mathematics, to propose that Washington be allowed to accept an end-of-course (EOC) assessment in mathematics for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations, and to request a waiver of the required 14-day notice requirement due to this change. In combination, these provisions will enable us to move forward with the plan for transitioning to EOC assessments.

Replace the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) with Mathematics EOC Tests—

Washington is one of the states whose assessments have been fully approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has been directed by our legislature to take major steps to revise our assessments in mathematics. The revisions required are to develop and implement high school mathematics EOC assessments for Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and for Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2. Algebra 1 and Integrated Mathematics 1 are separate courses that each teach mathematics content standards. Similarly, Geometry and Integrated Mathematics 2 are separate courses that each teach mathematics content standards. For assessment purposes, Algebra 1 and Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC tests will be linked to assessing first year mathematics, while Geometry and Integrated Mathematics 2 will be linked to assessing second year mathematics, with students being tested according to the course sequence available in their respective schools/districts.

The Performance Expectations (PEs) common to Algebra 1 and Integrated Mathematics 1 are assessed for purposes of determining proficiency. The PEs common to Geometry and Integrated Mathematics 2 are assessed for purposes of determining proficiency. The PEs unique to each course are assessed for purposes of reporting a strength or weakness.

The assessable standards, PEs, associated with first and second year mathematics, are linked to the course sequence followed and result in a matrix based on opportunity to learn for a student that is dependent on which course sequence he or she takes. Tables 1 and 2, below, are visual representations of how the PEs align to the course sequencing and when students would be expected to learn the associated skills and ultimately assessed on each.

Table 1 highlights the number of assessable PEs that correspond to skills students would learn in first-year or second-year mathematics, regardless of course-sequencing. These PEs are the foundation of skills and knowledge students will need to demonstrate proficiency for purposes of AYP and to fulfill graduation requirements. These PEs would also be the standards used in providing assessments to students who require testing but have either: (1) taken the course prior to the end-of-course introduction, or (2) not met standard on a previous mathematics assessment administration. In these latter two student situations, the standards shaded in green comprise what is referred to as the make-up, initial administration, or retake, subsequent administrations assessments.

Table 1
 Performance Expectations by Course
 (Shaded Areas Required for Graduation)

	Integrated Mathematics 1	Integrated Mathematics 2	Integrated Mathematics 3	
Algebra I	44 PEs			Algebra I PEs
Geometry		20 PEs		Geometry PEs
Algebra II				Algebra II PEs
	Integrated 1 PEs	Integrated 2 PEs	Integrated 3 PEs	ALL PEs

Table 2 highlights the PEs that are linked to course-specific content knowledge but do not overlap with the instructional delivery associated with a first-year and second-year concept in course-sequencing, (i.e., select PEs associated with Algebra 1 are not covered for students in an Integrated Mathematics curriculum until enrolled in Integrated Mathematics 2). These PEs will be linked to the course-specific version of the end-of-course assessment and will be used to demonstrate student mastery of course-specific knowledge but will not inform proficiency as it relates to AYP and fulfillment of graduation requirements. Items assessing these PEs will not be included on assessments given to students who would require testing to fulfill the mathematics graduation requirement.

Table 2
 Course-Specific Content
 (Shaded Areas Assessed as Course-Specific Content)

	Integrated Mathematics 1	Integrated Mathematics 2	Integrated Mathematics 3	
Algebra I		Integrated 2 EOC: 7 Algebra 1 EOC: 8		Algebra I PEs
Geometry	Geometry EOC: 7 Integrated 1 EOC: 7		Geometry EOC: 13	Geometry PEs
Algebra II		Integrated 2 EOC: 12		Algebra II PEs
	Integrated 1 PEs	Integrated 2 PEs	Integrated 3 PEs	ALL PEs

Beginning in spring 2011, the mathematics EOC assessments will replace our current high school mathematics assessment, administered annually to 10th graders. The assessments will be given in Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 classes, which can be taken as early as 7th grade, but typically are taken in 9th and 10th grade respectively. Under current legislation, students enrolled in classes coded specifically as Algebra 1, Integrated Mathematics 1, Geometry, and Integrated Mathematics 2 will be required to be assessed using the EOC tests. Additionally, per the current legislation, students in the Class of 2013 and beyond who have already taken one or both of the linked courses will be required to test using the make-up assessments for the corresponding year of mathematics already completed (Make-up Year 1 or Make-up Year 2).

The Make-up Year 1 test will have the same items that are common to Algebra 1 and Integrated 1 EOC tests; it will not contain the course specific content items. Therefore, all Year 1 mathematics tests (Algebra 1, Integrated 1, and Make-up Year 1) are viewed as equivalent assessments.

Accept the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1/Make-up Year 1 EOC assessments for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations, but for students who have already completed Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 substitute the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2/Make-up Year 2 assessments for AYP—
 We are proposing to use the Algebra 1 and Integrated 1 EOCs and corresponding Make-up Year 1 assessment, which as described above, will use common items to

assess the common PEs, for AYP determinations in high school mathematics. But we additionally request to be able to substitute the Year 2 mathematics tests (Geometry, Integrated 2, or Make-up Year 2) for AYP purposes for students who completed Algebra 1/Integrated 1 before 2011. Ideally, it would be best for students to take the EOC tests at the actual end of the particular course. In this transition to EOC tests, that will not be possible. Many current sophomores, juniors, and seniors have taken these mathematics courses (i.e., Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2) in prior years. Permitting the results from either of the EOC tests (Year 1 or Year 2) to be incorporated into AYP calculations would allow students who meet standard on the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 EOC—a higher-level, more difficult exam than the lower-level, less difficult Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC—to meet the assessment requirement and not have to go back to take the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC long after the fact. We request a two-year waiver to apply to AYP determinations based upon 2010–11 and 2011–12 assessments results, respectively [Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) of the ESEA]. Such would mean that for accountability purposes that either of the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 or the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 EOC tests may be used in AYP calculations.

Our projections, as of December 1, 2010, for which students will be participating in EOC assessments in 2011, shown below, illustrates that nearly 30,000 students could be relieved of taking a Year 1 test if their Year 2 test can be substituted for AYP calculations.

Grade	Total	Year 1 Test			Year 2 Test		
		Algebra 1	Integrated 1	Make-up 1	Geometry	Integrated 2	Make-up 2
6	312	299	2	11	11		
7	2,716	2,591	22	103	101	5	
8	15,643	12,209	253	3,181	3,157	31	
9	51,331	29,151	3,775	18,405	17,326	1,496	6
10	81,258	10,491	1,134	69,633	25,398	2,643	1,398
AYP							
Total	151,260	54,741	5,186	91,333	45,993	4,175	1,404

Waive Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Notice Requirement for Public School Choice for 2011–12 School Year—

OSPI requests two one-year waivers of the Title I, Part A requirement for a school district to:

1. Identify schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring no later than the beginning of the school year following the administration of the state

assessment on which the school did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) [Section 1116(b)(1)(B) of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. § 200.32(a)(2)]. This waiver would apply only to high schools.

2. Provide parents of eligible students with notice of their public school choice options at least 14 days before the start of the school year [Section 1116(b)(1)(E)(i) of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. § 200.37(b)(4)(iv)]. This waiver would apply only with respect to parents of students enrolled in Title I high schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year, but did not.

Washington State seeks a waiver of this provision because the state must set cut scores on the new mathematics EOC assessments (see paragraph above), a process which legislatively requires action by our State Board of Education (SBE) before scores can be reported. The scales for the new mathematics EOC assessments will then need to be bridged to the old (2010) scale to establish a new high school uniform bar for AYP calculations. The SBE is scheduled to set the cut scores in a special meeting on August 10, 2011, which is the earliest date possible given our schedules for testing, scoring, data processing, and meeting with standard-setting panels.

Proposed Timeline—

A time line of key events associated with the new high school mathematics assessments is provided below.

DATE	ACTION
June 7–8, 2011	Range finding for constructed response (CR) items
June 10–13, 2011	Table Leader training on CR items
June 14–15, 2011	Scorer training on CR items
June 24, 2011	High School test window closes
July 8, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring of High School CR items complete • Item calibration complete
July 15, 2011	Raw score files from scoring contractor to psychometric contractor
August 1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge study completed (2010 HSPE Scale to 2011 high school mathematics EOC assessments scale) • Ordered Item Booklets completed for standard setting

August 2–5, 2011	Standard setting panels A: High School
August 5, 2011	Articulation Committee: High School
August 8, 2011	National TAC reviews standard setting process
August 10, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board of Education sets achievement standards • Raw-to-scale score tables transmitted from OSPI to contractors
August 12, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge study linked to 2011 scale scores • New uniform bar established, if needed
August 22, 2011	Preliminary school/district/state AYP calculations transmitted to districts
No later than August 31, 2011	Public release of AYP determinations

Washington State cannot guarantee that all school districts within the State will be able to comply with the 14-day notice requirement. As outlined above, the state’s schedule for mathematics standard setting in high school will not be completed until August 10, 2011. Schools that will move into improvement or schools that may move out of improvement by meeting AYP for two consecutive years will not receive their AYP standing until August 22, 2011, at the earliest, after which time districts and schools will need to notify parents of the AYP status of schools. With Labor Day on September 5, 2011, many Washington districts may begin school the week before Labor Day. The 2011 timeline does not allow districts to meet the 14-day notice requirement.

Thus, a waiver of the 14-day notice requirement is necessary to give Washington and its school districts sufficient time to carry out the standard setting process as planned and thereby ensure statistically valid and reliable AYP determinations. Washington must be able to ensure valid and reliable AYP determinations so that schools and districts can properly implement school improvement activities to increase the quality of instruction for students and ultimately improve the academic achievement of students. It has been Washington’s consistent practice to urge districts to communicate options to parents as soon as possible.

Subject to change as set forth in this letter, Washington has set annual measurable objectives (AMOs) in reading and mathematics for the 2010–11 and 2011–12 school years. (See Attachment A: Reading and Mathematics AMOs.)

Washington will determine AYP based on assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year in accordance with the requirements of section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). As stated above,

Washington believes that providing our state with the time necessary to carry out its assessment timeline as planned will allow the State to ensure that school improvement decisions for the 2011–12 school year are based on valid and reliable AYP determinations.

Prior to submitting the 14-day waiver request, Washington provided all school districts in the State with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. Washington State provided such notice by sending an email to each school district on December 29, 2010. (See Attachment B: Copy of District Notice and District Comments.) Washington has also provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which Washington State customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting information regarding the waiver request on OSPI's website. (See Attachment C: Copy of Public Notice.)

Washington State hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested 14-day waiver, both the State and its school districts will meet the following conditions:

1. School districts within the State will provide notice of public school choice less than 14 days before the school year only with respect to students in schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year) or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year), but did not.
2. All school districts within the State will comply with the 14-day notice requirement with respect to students in schools that are already identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and cannot exit that status for the 2011–12 school year.
3. To the extent practicable, all school districts within the State will comply with the statutory requirement in section 1116(b) to provide notice of public school choice before the start of the school year.
4. School districts that offer public school choice earlier to students in some schools than to students in other schools will reserve a portion of the available transportation slots for students in the schools who receive the later notice, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education Public School Choice Non-Regulatory Guidance.
5. The State will take all steps necessary to ensure that its assessment schedule and test vendor contract for the 2011–12 school year (and beyond) will permit school districts within the State to provide notice of public school choice sufficiently in advance of, but no later than 14 days before, the start of the 2012–13 school year (and all subsequent school years).

Washington State will ensure compliance with these conditions by providing appropriate guidance regarding these conditions to its school districts. In particular, Washington

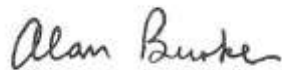
Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana
Page 8
January 7, 2011

State intends to distribute a bulletin to all school districts that requires them to sign an assurance that they will meet the required parent notification requirements and that they will implement the 14-day requirement in 2012–13 as required in the U.S. Department of Education Guidance of October 2008. The bulletin will also require all districts to provide a dated copy of the Public School Choice notification letter to OSPI to retain in each district's Title I application file. OSPI's Title I office will verify that all districts have met the timeline with the receipt of each district's dated Public School Choice notification letter. The requirement to send OSPI a dated notification letter will also be made for the 2012–13 school year to ensure that districts meet the 14-day notification requirement.

Washington State further assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by October 31, 2011, a report that provides the total number of school districts within the State that had schools that entered or exited improvement status in the 2010–11 school year, and the total number of school districts within the State that took advantage of the waiver and provided some parents notice of Public School Choice less than 14 days before the start of the 2011–12 school year.

Please feel free to contact Bob Harmon, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs & Federal Accountability at (360) 725-6170 or email bob.harmon@k12.wa.us, if you have any questions regarding this request. If you have any questions pertaining to Washington's assessment system, please contact Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent of K–12 Education at (360) 725-6343 or email alan.burke@k12.wa.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Burke, Ed.D.,
Deputy Superintendent
K–12 Education

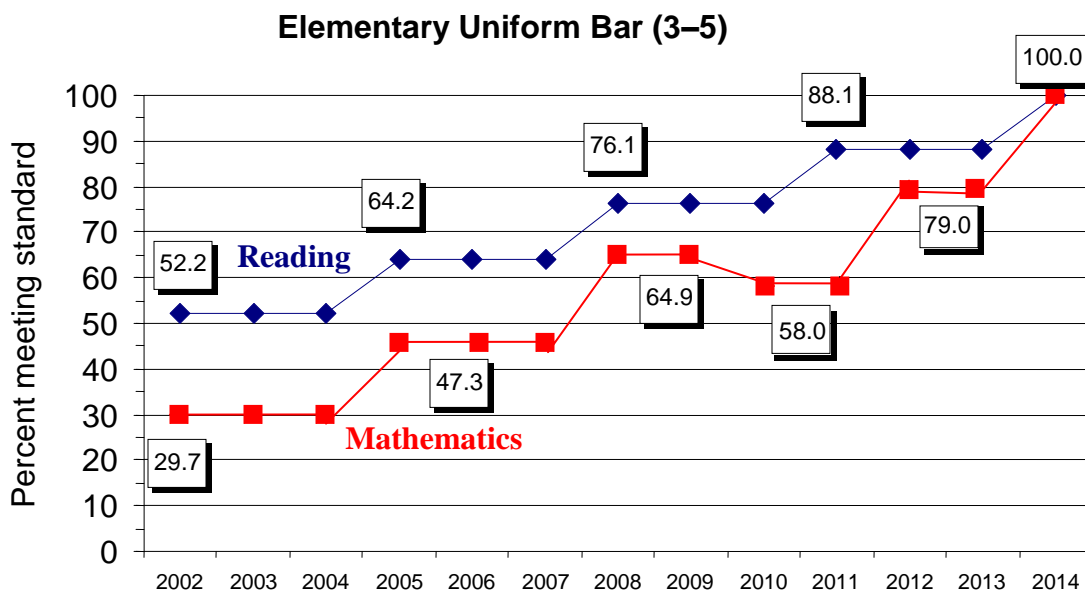


Bob Harmon, Assistant Superintendent
Special Programs & Federal Accountability

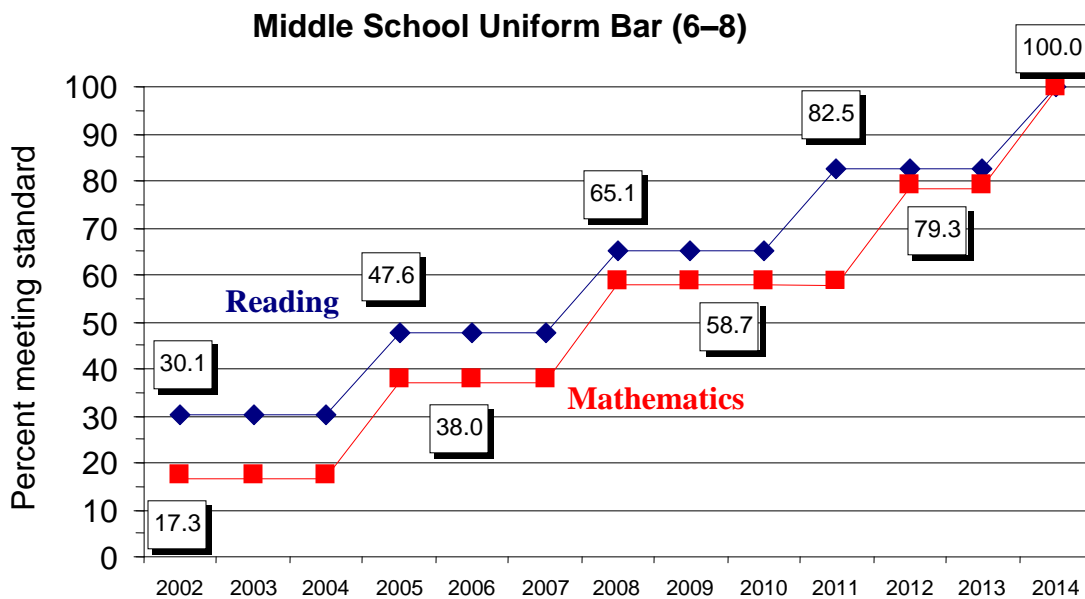
Attachment A: Reading and Mathematics AMOs
Attachment B: Copy of District Notice and District Comments
Attachment C: Copy of Public Notice

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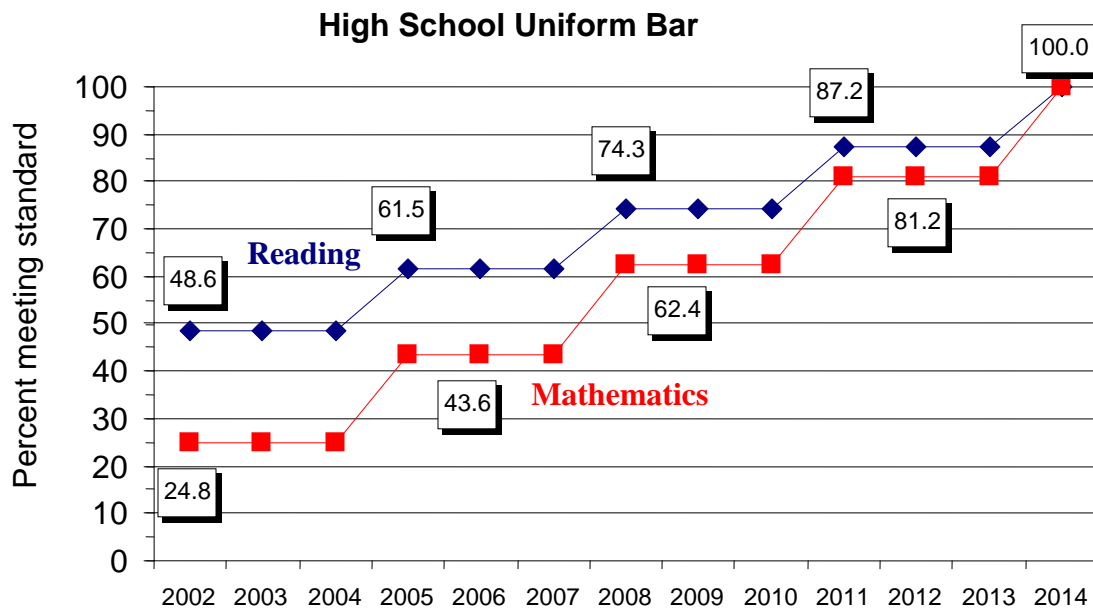
Reading and Mathematics AMOs



NOTE: The state uniform bar for elementary mathematics was revised last year, for 2010–13 targets based on new cut scores and the bridge study.



NOTE: The state uniform bar for middle school mathematics for 2010–13 didn't change because the new assessments were determined to be of equal difficulty as compared to assessments from previous years.



NOTE: The high school mathematics uniform bar for 2011 and subsequent years may change subject to the results of the new cut scores and the bridge study to be released August 10, 2011.

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 for waivers of *Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2011–12 school year*.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to notify Washington public school districts of the state's intent to request waivers for *Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2011–12 school year*. Districts are asked to provide comment on this waiver request to OSPI. Comments from districts will be included in OSPI's request to the U.S. Department of Education.

Please send comments to jami.peterson@k12.wa.us, by close of business on January 5, 2011.

Washington State through OSPI requests two one-year waivers of the Title I, Part A requirement for a school district to:

1. Identify schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring no later than the beginning of the school year following the administration of the state assessment on which the school did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) [Section 1116(b)(1)(B) of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. § 200.32(a)(2)]. This waiver would apply only to high schools.
2. Provide parents of eligible students with notice of their public school choice options at least 14 days before the start of the school year [Section 1116(b)(1)(E)(i) of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. § 200.37(b)(4)(iv)]. This waiver would apply only with respect to parents of students enrolled in Title I high schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year, but did not.

Washington State seeks a waiver of this provision because the state must set cut scores on the new mathematics EOC (see paragraph below), a process which legislatively requires action by our State Board of Education (SBE) before scores can be reported. The scales for the new mathematics EOC assessments will then need to be bridged to the old (2010) scale to establish a new high school uniform bar for AYP calculations. The SBE is scheduled to set the cut scores in a special meeting on August 10, 2011, which is the earliest date possible given our schedules for testing, scoring, data processing, and meeting with standard-setting panels.

Replace the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) with Mathematics EOC Tests—

Washington is one of the states whose assessments have been fully approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has been directed by our legislature to take major steps to revise our assessments in mathematics. The revisions required are to develop and implement high school mathematics EOC assessments for Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and for Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2. Beginning in spring 2011, the mathematics EOC assessments will replace our current high school mathematics assessment, administered annually to 10th graders. The assessments will be given in Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 classes, which can be taken as early as 7th grade, but typically are taken in 9th and 10th grade respectively. We have been in initial communication with ED staff regarding the mathematics EOC assessments.

Accept the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1/Make-up Year 1 EOC assessments for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations, but for students who have already completed Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 substitute the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2/Make-up Year 2 assessments for AYP—

We are proposing to use the Algebra 1 and Integrated 1 EOCs and corresponding Make-up Year 1 assessment, which will use common items to assess the common PEs, for AYP determinations in high school mathematics. But we additionally request to be able to substitute the Year 2 mathematics tests (Geometry, Integrated 2, or Make-up Year 2) for AYP purposes for students who completed Algebra 1/Integrated 1 before 2011. Ideally, it would be best for students to take the EOC tests at the actual end of the particular course. In this transition to EOC tests, that will not be possible. Many current sophomores, juniors, and seniors have taken these mathematics courses (i.e., Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2) in prior years. Permitting the results from either of the EOC tests (Year 1 or Year 2) to be incorporated into AYP calculations would allow students who meet standard on the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 EOC—a higher-level, more difficult exam than the lower-level, less difficult Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC—to meet the assessment requirement and not have to go back to take the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC long after the fact.

This waiver would apply only with respect to parents of students enrolled in Title I high schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year, but did not. Washington State requests this waiver of this provision because the state is not able to modify the state's assessment schedule due to the state's contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). The state does not receive Washington's student assessment data in time for the state's 295 districts to verify, review, and return those corrections to OSPI for final review to determine the AYP status of districts and their schools.

Washington State hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested 14-day waiver, both the State and its school districts will meet the following conditions:

1. School districts within the State will provide notice of public school choice less than 14 days before the school year only with respect to students in schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year) or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year), but did not.
2. All school districts within the State will comply with the 14-day notice requirement with respect to students in schools that are already identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and cannot exit that status for the 2011–12 school year.
3. To the extent practicable, all school districts within the State will comply with the statutory requirement in section 1116(b) to provide notice of public school choice before the start of the school year.
4. School districts that offer public school choice earlier to students in some schools than to students in other schools will reserve a portion of the available transportation slots for students in the schools who receive the later notice, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education Public School Choice Non-Regulatory Guidance.
5. The State will take all steps necessary to ensure that its assessment schedule and test vendor contract for the 2011–12 school year (and beyond) will permit school districts within the State to provide notice of public school choice sufficiently in advance of, but no later than 14 days before, the start of the 2012–13 school year (and all subsequent school years).

Washington State will ensure compliance with these conditions by providing appropriate guidance regarding these conditions to its school districts. In particular, Washington State intends to distribute a bulletin to all school districts that requires them to sign an assurance that they will meet the required parent notification requirements and that they will implement the 14-day requirement in 2012–13 as required in the U.S. Department of Education Guidance of October 2008. The bulletin will also require all districts to provide a dated copy of the Public School Choice notification letter to OSPI to retain in each district's Title I application file. OSPI's Title I office will verify that all districts have met the timeline with the receipt of each district's dated Public School Choice notification letter. The requirement to send OSPI a dated notification letter will also be made for the 2012–13 school year to ensure that districts meet the 14-day notification requirement.

Washington State further assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by October 31, 2011, a report that provides the total number of school districts within the State that had schools that entered or exited improvement status in the 2010–11 school year, and the total number of school districts within the State that took advantage of the waiver and provided some parents notice of Public School Choice less than 14 days before the start of the 2011–12 school year.

Please feel free to contact Bob Harmon, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs & Federal Accountability at (360) 725-6170 or email bob.harmon@k12.wa.us, if you have any questions regarding this request. If you have any questions pertaining to Washington's assessment system, please contact Dr. Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent of K-12 Education at (360) 725-6343 or email alan.burke@k12.wa.us.

District Comments

Mukilteo School District supports Washington State's application for waivers for the 14 day notice and end of course exam. Although this does not apply to us as we do not have any high schools that receive Title 1 funding, this was very helpful for our elementary schools last year.

Tracey Prpich
Director of Categorical Programs
Mukilteo School District
425-356-1225
prpichta@mukilteo.wednet.edu

We are in favor and support of filing the waivers. Please add my e-mail contact change jdavidson@crschools.org to your e-mail list.

Thank you!
Julie Davidson
Castle Rock Elementary Parent Liaison

The time line for communicating information regarding Building AYP status is very challenging as it stands now. Not having the new cut scores makes it nearly impossible. Asking for the waiver is critical.

Nancy Duffey
Director of State and Federal Programs
Wenatchee School District
duffey.n@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

Auburn School District is in support of this waiver request even though we don't have high schools who receive Title I funding. We support this because it is not unlike the situation we encountered last year at the elementary level when the mathematics test results were not available before the 14 day window requirement needed to be met. The waiver enabled us to put a reasonable plan in place where we could make decisions based on the data and lessen the impact on families who would have received conflicting information about their Choice/SES options. Having the waiver was a benefit to both our program planning and our families. We would advocate for this for districts who have Title I funding at the high school level.

Heidi Harris
Director Elementary Student Learning
Title I, II, Highly Capable, and LAP
Auburn School District #408
#253-931-4950

Copy of Public Notice

Public Notices for OSPI Title I Waiver Requests to U.S. Department of Education for the 2011-2012 School Year

Public Notice for OSPI Title I Waiver Request to U.S. Department of Education
Public notice for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Title I waiver requests to U.S. Department of Education.

Notice to the public of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for waivers of *Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2011–12 school year*.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to notify Washington State citizens of the state's intent to request waivers for *Identification of Schools in Improvement and 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2011–12 school year*.

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Accept the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1/Make-up Year 1 EOC assessments for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations, but for students who have already completed Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 substitute the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2/Make-up Year 2 assessments for AYP—

We are proposing to use the Algebra 1 and Integrated 1 EOCs and corresponding Make-up Year 1 assessment, which will use common items to assess the common PEs, for AYP determinations in high school mathematics. But we additionally request to be able to substitute the Year 2 mathematics tests (Geometry, Integrated 2, or Make-up Year 2) for AYP purposes for students who completed Algebra 1/Integrated 1 before 2011. Ideally, it would be best for students to take the EOC tests at the actual end of the particular course. In this transition to EOC tests, that will not be possible. Many current sophomores, juniors, and seniors have taken these mathematics courses (i.e., Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 and Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2) in prior years. Permitting the results from either of the EOC tests (Year 1 or Year 2) to be incorporated into AYP calculations would allow students who meet standard on the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics 2 EOC—a higher-level, more difficult exam than the lower-level, less difficult Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC—to meet the assessment requirement and not have to go back to take the Algebra 1/Integrated Mathematics 1 EOC long after the fact.

This waiver would apply only with respect to parents of students enrolled in Title I high schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year, but did not. Washington State requests this waiver of this provision because the state is not able to modify the state's assessment schedule due to the state's contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). The state does not receive Washington's student assessment data in time for the state's 295 districts to verify, review, and return those corrections to OSPI for final review to determine the AYP status of districts and their schools.

Washington State hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested 14-day waiver, both the State and its school districts will meet the following conditions:

1. School districts within the State will provide notice of public school choice less than 14 days before the school year only with respect to students in schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year) or that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2011–12 school year (based on results of assessments administered in the 2010–11 school year), but did not.
2. All school districts within the State will comply with the 14-day notice requirement with respect to students in schools that are already identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and cannot exit that status for the 2011–12 school year.
3. To the extent practicable, all school districts within the State will comply with the statutory requirement in section 1116(b) to provide notice of public school choice before the start of the school year.
4. School districts that offer public school choice earlier to students in some schools than to students in other schools will reserve a portion of the available transportation slots for students in the schools who receive the later notice, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education Public School Choice Non-Regulatory Guidance.
5. The State will take all steps necessary to ensure that its assessment schedule and test vendor contract for the 2011–12 school year (and beyond) will permit school districts within the State to provide notice of public school choice sufficiently in advance of, but no later than 14 days before, the start of the 2012–13 school year (and all subsequent school years).

Washington State will ensure compliance with these conditions by providing appropriate guidance regarding these conditions to its school districts. In particular, Washington State intends to distribute a bulletin to all school districts that requires them to sign an assurance that they will meet the required parent notification requirements and that they will implement the 14-day requirement in 2012–13 as required in the U.S. Department of Education Guidance of October 2008. The bulletin will also require all districts to provide a dated copy of the Public School Choice notification letter to OSPI to retain in each district's Title I application file. OSPI's Title I office will verify that all districts have met the timeline with the receipt of each district's dated Public School Choice notification letter. The requirement to send OSPI a dated notification letter will also be made for the 2012–13 school year to ensure that districts meet the 14-day notification requirement.

Washington State further assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by October 31, 2011, a report that provides the total number of school districts within the State that had schools that entered or exited improvement status in the 2010–11 school year, and the total number of school districts within the State that took advantage of the waiver and provided some parents notice of Public School Choice less than 14 days before the start of the 2011–12 school year.

Please feel free to contact Bob Harmon, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs & Federal Accountability at (360) 725-6170 or email bob.harmon@k12.wa.us, if you have any questions regarding this request. If you have any questions pertaining to Washington's assessment system, please contact Dr. Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent of K-12 Education at (360) 725-6343 or email alan.burke@k12.wa.us.