Remote Testing (C251L25)

Budget Language

$25,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 and $24,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2027 are provided solely for implementation of Substitute House Bill No. 1079 (remote testing).

Proviso Purpose

To establish a secure and consistent framework for remotely administering statewide academic assessments to students enrolled in online school programs beginning in the 2027–28 school year, including requirements for testing personnel, proctoring, testing environments, technology, parental consent, and ongoing policy and rule updates.

Services Provided

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) developed a process for remotely administering statewide general assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science to students enrolled in online school programs. OSPI also developed administration and security protocols and guidance to support remote testing. OSPI conducted a feasibility study involving 1,010 students from four schools across two districts. These students took at least part of one test remotely. In addition to the feasibility study participants, twenty-eight other district and school personnel across 58 districts took the remote testing test administrator certification course in support of remote administration.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

School districts with online school program.

Beneficiaries in the 20250–26 School Year

Number of School Districts:	60
Number of Schools:	79
Number of Students:	1010
Number of Educators:	155
Other (District and School Staff):	28

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2026	$25,000	$24,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025–26	1193

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

During the 2025–26 school year, OSPI conducted a remote testing feasibility study to assess school and district readiness to administer Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics assessments and the WCAS remotely with 1010 students participating.

Since the conclusion of the feasibility study, remote testing guidance and documentation have been updated.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

The feasibility study found strong interest in remote testing, but varying levels of readiness based on technology, staffing, test security, and student and family support. District feedback emphasized the importance of reliable internet access, clear and secure procedures, trained staff, and effective communication.

Parent and guardian feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with families generally reporting clear expectations, manageable technology requirements, and positive student experiences.

Overall, the study found that successful remote testing requires coordinated planning, effective communication systems, and a phased implementation approach. The feasibility study will lead to a carefully designed pilot and the best opportunity to evaluate processes and address challenges while maintaining assessment validity, accessibility, and security.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

The feasibility study identified technology readiness as a key challenge for remote testing. Districts reported that students used a variety of personally owned devices, some of which school technology staff could not adequately support. Families also encountered unreliable internet, occasional device setup issues, and difficulty understanding available support resources. These findings emphasize the importance of clear communication between schools and families and enhanced school technical support.

The study also highlighted equity considerations associated with students' home testing environments. Differences in internet reliability, device access, and available adult assistance may

create barriers for some students and will need careful consideration as remote testing opportunities are further explored.

Future Opportunities

OSPI will build on the feasibility study by launching a remote testing pilot during the spring 2027 assessment administration with approximately 40 districts that expressed interest and technology readiness. The pilot will evaluate technology, test security, accessibility, staff training, and stakeholder experiences to identify best practices and determine the safeguards and supports needed for statewide implementation in 2028.

Pilot findings will inform future guidance, professional learning, technical support, and strategies for equitable access. Family feedback will also help strengthen communication, technology preparation, and support resources to reduce barriers and improve the remote testing experience for students and families.

Other Relevant Information

No other relevant information.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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