



In Search of a Diploma

Navigating the State's Assessment Requirements



What Defines A Prospective Graduate's Requirements?

- Original graduation requirements were to begin with the Class of 2008.
 - Students meet standard in R, W and M.
- Testing nominally 2 years prior to graduation.
 - Class status could change between two milestones.
- Class basis (and corresponding requirements) established on year student entered 9th grade.



What are the Assessment Elements to Earning a Diploma?

- Depends on what graduating class the student is linked to.
 - Presently, 3 distinct graduation class groupings have differing paths to fulfill the state assessment requirements.
 - Class of 2010 through 2012
 - Class of 2013
 - Class of 2014 and beyond



Assessment Elements

Class of 2010-2012

- **READING AND WRITING**

- Pass reading and writing high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass reading and writing CAA option (state-approved alternative).

- **MATH**

- Pass math high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass math CAA option.
 - --OR—
- Earn two math credits after 10th grade.



Assessment Elements Class of 2013

- **READING AND WRITING**

- Pass reading and writing high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass reading and writing CAA Option (state-approved alternative).

- **MATH**

- Pass math high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port); HSPE can be previous comprehensive or new end-of-course assessment.
 - --OR--
- Pass math CAA Option (state-approved alternative).

- **SCIENCE**

- Pass science high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass CAA Option (state-approved alternative).



Assessment Elements Class of 2014 & Beyond

- **READING AND WRITING**

- Pass reading and writing high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass reading and writing CAA Option (state-approved alternative).

- **MATH**

- Pass math high school assessment (**HSPE EOC** or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass math CAA Option (state-approved alternative).

- **SCIENCE**

- Pass science high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass CAA Option (state-approved alternative).



Fulfilling the State Assessment Requirements

- Grade 10 established as the high school year for state & federal accountability testing.
 - Considered census assessment for high school
 - Every student expected to test
- Also is testing year for first meeting graduation requirements.



Assessment Elements Class of 2012: Student Scenarios

- **READING AND WRITING**

- Pass reading and writing high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass reading and writing CAA option (state-approved alternative).

- **MATH**

- Pass math high school assessment (HSPE or WAAS-Port).
 - --OR--
- Pass math CAA option.
 - --OR—
- Earn two math credits after 10th grade.



Which Students Still Need Attention?

- Students having taken the HSPE or WAAS-Port once, but not met standard.
 - Students who have not tested treated as not meeting standard.
- Students transferring in 11th or 12th grade.
 - NNEP student transfers for 10th grade are exempt from the assessment in reading & writing.



What Paths Do Students Take?

- Students started in state public school system
 - Tested at least once:
 - Retakes
 - CAA Options
 - Not Tested
 - Main Assessment
- Transfers (after 10th grade)
 - Main Assessment
 - CAA Options (direct access)



Assessment Elements (cont'd.)

State Approved Alternatives (CAA Options)

- Collection of Evidence
- College Admission Tests
 - SAT or ACT
- AP Test Scores
- HSPE Grades Comparison
- Other States' Equivalency Assessments

All valuable options but when does each apply and for which students?



Assessment Elements (cont'd.)

State Approved Alternatives (CAA Options)

- Collection of Evidence
- College Admission Tests
 - SAT or ACT
- AP Test Scores
- HSPE Grades Comparison

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/default.aspx>

- Other States' Equivalency Assessments

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WaiverAppeals/TransferWaiver.aspx>



Avenues Available for Special Education Students?

- HSPE-Basic
 - Level 2 as prescribed on his or her IEP.
- WAAS-DAPE
 - Level 3 on either elementary or middle school level test).
- Locally Determined Assessment
 - 12th graders only.
- Awareness Level Waiver
 - Specific to students diagnosed at the “awareness” level of cognition.
 - 11th and 12th graders only.



Where to Turn When Nothing Seems to Fit

- There are varying levels of eligibility criteria for each of the options.
 - Students may not meet eligibility.
- Where do administrators turn if available options do not fit the student's situation?
 - ***Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal?!***



CAA Options/Waivers (Points of Contact)

- COE

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- Transfers/Waivers/
Other Options

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Assessment Elements for a Diploma (Superintendent's Proposal)?

- Still dependent on a student's graduating class.
 - Only 2 distinctions (deferring discussions on Science)
 - Class of 2010 through 2014
 - Class of 2014 and beyond
 - Addition of science would add another element beyond Class of 2014, but too early to even discuss.



Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeals



Fact or Fiction?

- The Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal is for students who failed to meet standard on a state-approved assessment during the current school year?



Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeals

- Fiction – the special, unavoidable circumstance appeal is for 12th grade students only, who could not participate in a state-approved assessment during the current year due to a situation outside the students' control.
 - Students in their senior year who have been precluded from demonstrating their skills and knowledge on the HSPE or another assessment because of special, unavoidable circumstance may appeal to a Review Board.



Reasons Student Precluded (Appeal Criteria)

- Death of an immediate family member
- Unexpected severe medical condition
- Other compelling magnitude
- Irregularity in the administration of an assessment
- Loss of assessment material
- Failure to receive an accommodation
- Out-of-state transfer after March 1 (12th grade)



No Longer Acceptable Reasons

- Ignorance of the rules, requirements and expectations.
- Miscommunication by administrators to students regarding the rules, requirement and expectations.



Fact or Fiction?

- Students who are identified as English Language Learners may present their case to the appeal review board as a Special, Unavoidable Circumstance.
- Fiction – A student's inability to access an assessment due to a language barrier is not sufficient criteria to pursue a special, unavoidable circumstance appeal.



Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeals

- As mentioned earlier, the special, unavoidable circumstance appeal is for the student who could not sit for an assessment or had an unusual situation arise during the administration and processing of the assessment that precluded a score being generated for that student.
- ***It does not apply to lack of success on the state assessment nor should it be looked at as a back-up plan to for students to achieve a diploma.***



Process Overview

- Application windows
- Four part application:
 - Student information – used to validate specific assessment related data prior to review board convening.
 - Narrative – critical piece of the application; information specific to each student that details the circumstances behind the appeal.



Process Overview (cont'd.)

- Affidavit – affirmation of both family/student and school administrator (i.e., principal) of the accuracy of information and completeness of the application.
 - Starting in 2009 the process included the District Assessment Coordinator review and signature.
- Supplemental Data – important to the review panel's deliberation; recommend transcripts, previous standardized test scores (high school only), supporting documentation linked to the narrative (medical, 504 plan, IEP), transfer date as applicable for the student.



Process Overview (cont'd.)

- Initial review by OSPI – to ensure completeness and meeting eligibility criteria.
- Review board convened – evaluates all eligible applications.
- Superintendent approval and communication – reviews recommendations from board, with option to approve or decline panel recommendation; formal letters sent to student via the school.



Justifications: (Assessment Audience Knowledge)

- Business trip with parent.
- Transporting relative to airport and only family member who can drive and speak English.
- Audition for entrance to performing arts college.
- Missing military boot camp inductee date.
- Vacation planned in advance.
- Car broke down on way to school.



Justifications: (Assessment Audience Knowledge)

- Baby delivered during testing week.
- Administrator instructed student that testing was not required/necessary.
- Running Start schedule conflicts with test schedule.
- Out-of-Country on study abroad program.
- Student didn't get a fair chance on the test because they are ELL.



Special, Unavoidable Circumstances Appeals

- Guidelines and application form can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/appeals.aspx>
- Deadlines for filing appeals: May 1 and October 1.
- POC: Michael Middleton at 360.725.6434 or michael.middleton@k12.wa.us