

Washington Assessment System

Update for Assessment Task Force, July 2008 (7/24 DRAFT)

2008 Session

- ▶ **Commitments SPI made to Governor/Legislature:**
 - ▶ Shorten assessments
 - ▶ Incorporate new math standards into assessment by 2010(Grades3-8) and 2011(High School)
 - ▶ Implement diagnostic assessments and new accommodations
 - ▶ Include robust termination clauses in contract to maintain Legislative flexibility to set policy direction
 - ▶ Reduce costs wherever possible
- ▶ **Additional Legislative direction:**
 - ▶ Implement new End-of-Course assessments, phase-out comprehensive math WASL, incorporate new math standards
 - ▶ OFM oversee contract negotiation process and release
- ▶ 2 funds for system once commitments were met

Shortened Reading, Math, and Science Assessments

- ▶ Assessments are shortened significantly and still remain valid and reliable
 - ▶ National TAC review and approval in March, 2008
 - ▶ 10th grade not reduced
- ▶ Reduced open-ended items (2-point & 4-pt items)
slide 4
 - ▶ In elementary grades, eliminated all 4-point items (3rd, 4th, 5th grade reading and math; 5th grade science)
 - ▶ Used additional multiple choice items as necessary to cover standards and retain validity and reliability
- ▶ Shortened tests mean fewer testing days – *slide 5*

Assessments Shortened by Reducing the Number of Open-ended Items

	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ No 4 point (pt) items remain✓ 27% fewer 2 & 4 pt items combined✓ 2/4 pt items make up 35% of points (from 51%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Some 4 pt items remain✓ 13% fewer 2 & 4 pt items✓ 2/4 pt items make up 46% of points (from 51%)
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ No 4 pt items remain✓ 40% fewer 2 & 4 pt items combined✓ 2/4 pt items make up 42% of points (from 56%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Some 4 pt items remain✓ 33% fewer 2 & 4 pt items✓ 2/4 pt items make up 48% of points (from 58%)
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ No 4 pt items remain✓ 33% fewer 2 & 4 pt items✓ 2/4 pt items make up 43% of points (from 57%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Some 4 pt items remain✓ 36% fewer 2 & 4 pt items✓ 2/4 pt items make up 44% of points (from 55%)

Shorter Assessments Reduces the Number Test Sessions and the Number of Days Needed for Testing

of Sessions over # of Days of WASL Testing

Subject	Year	Grade3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading	Current	2 over 2	2 over 2	2 over 2	2 over 2	2 over 2	2 over 2
	2009	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1
Math	Current	3 over 3	3 over 3	3 over 3	2 over 2	2 over 2	2 over 2
	2009	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1	2 over 1
Science	Current			3 over 3			2 over 2
	2009			2 over 2			2 over 2
Writing	Current		2 over 2			2 over 2	
	2009		2 over 2			2 over 2	
Total	Current	5 over 5	7 over 7	8 over 8	4 over 4	6 over 6	6 over 6
	2009	4 over 2	6 over 4	6 over 4	4 over 2	6 over 4	6 over 4

**Districts set the testing schedule within a state-established testing window; to maximize flexibility the testing window will not be shortened*

Year New Math Standards will be Assessed

Grades 3 – 8	2010 (pilot in 2009)
Grade 10 Comprehensive	2011 (pilot in 2010)
Grade 10 Algebra 1 & Integrated 1	2011 (pilot in 2010)
Grade 10 Geometry and Integrated II	2011(pilot in 2010)

Implementing new Diagnostic Assessments and Accommodations

Accommodations (Special Ed Reading; ELL Math and Science)

Read-aloud on CD for High School – Special Education	Available with 2009 HS Reading Assessments
Translation CD for six most-frequent languages	Available with all 2009 Math & Science Assessments
Glossary	Available with all 2009 Math & Science Assessments

Classroom Diagnostic Assessments

Reading	Must re-bid
Math	Must re-bid
Science	Must re-bid

Termination Clauses in Major Assessment Contracts

<p>Legislative Policy Change</p>	<p>Alterations and Amendments. This agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties, however, in the event that the Washington State Legislature revises policies creating substantive impact to the assessment system and current contract deliverables, the Superintendent may, by advance written notification to the Contractor, renegotiate and make changes in the general scope of the services to be performed under the contract without penalty due to loss of scope of work. If any such changes cause an increase or decrease in the cost of, or the time required for the performance of this contract, an agreed upon equitable adjustment shall be made in the contract price or period of performance, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly and signed by personnel authorized to bind each of the parties.</p>
<p>Superintendent's Policy Change</p>	<p>DUTIES OF THE CONTRACTOR (straight from contract text) Agree to work with Superintendent in identifying cost savings in the program, as well as program improvements that are cost neutral. Any changes to the deliverables will be by mutual agreement of the parties and will not be considered binding unless they are in writing and signed by personnel authorized to bind each of the parties as per Attachment A, General Terms and Conditions, item 2, Alterations and Amendments.</p> <p>Nothing else specifically in the contract or terms other than that covered in other clauses (see above).</p>

Termination Clauses in Major Assessment Contracts (cont'd.)

Termination	<p>Termination for Default. In the event the Superintendent determines the Contractor has failed to comply with the conditions of this Contract in a timely manner, the Superintendent has the right to suspend or terminate this Contract. The Superintendent shall notify the Contractor in writing of the need to take corrective action. If corrective action is not taken within 30 days, the Contract may be terminated. The Superintendent reserves the right to suspend all or part of the Contract, withhold further payments, or prohibit the Contractor from incurring additional obligations of funds during investigation of the alleged compliance breach and pending corrective action by the Contractor or a decision by the Superintendent to terminate the Contract. In the event of termination, the Contractor shall be liable for damages as authorized by law including, but not limited to, any cost difference between the original contract and the replacement or cover contract and all administrative costs directly related to the replacement contract, e.g., cost of the competitive bidding, mailing, advertising and staff time.</p> <p>Termination Due to Funding Limitations. In the event funding from state, federal, or other sources is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date of this contract and prior to normal completion, the Superintendent may, without advance notice and without liability for damages, terminate the contract under the “Termination for Convenience” clause. The Superintendent and Contractor may, however, renegotiate this contract under any such new funding limitations and conditions.</p>
Renewal	<p>OSPI has the right to renew this contract in whole or in part for years 2013 and 2014 by giving notice to the Contractor on or before July 1, 2012 and 2013, respectively. If Superintendent provides such notice to the Contractor, the Contractor shall be obligated to enter into a contract with the same fiscal obligations as previously contracted, provided that costs are adjusted for inflation based on the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) as factored against the expenditures budget in Project Year 4 (July 2011 through June 2012), and Superintendent and Contractor shall negotiate any revision of additional services or goals beyond those encompassed in the previous contract.</p>

Scoring of Bids

- ▶ Bidders were required to re-price based on shorter test, new math standards, EOC enhancement (April re-pricing)
 - ▶ New math standards and required item development previously unknown
 - ▶ Require 300 new items; 85 open-ended
- ▶ Proposals were scored on both cost and quality (reference checks, management plan, site visits, technical proposal, presentation)
- ▶ Highest scoring bids on quality were also the lowest priced in 10 of 12 bid components; other two were second-lowest

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)	WASL Operations & Scoring/Reporting; Segmented Math; Math End-of-Course Operations & Scoring/Reporting; Translations
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	Item and Test Development for all WASL & End-of-Course Math; Accommodations
ESD 113	Collection of Evidence
Measured Progress	Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS – Portfolio)
Assessment Evaluation Systems	Psychometric Quality Control

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WASL Bid Progression

Narrow definition of WASL--excludes COE and WAAS, and EOC, diagnostic and accommodations enhancements

\$ in Thousands

	Fiscal Year	April Bid w/o End-of-Course, Diagnostic, New Accomod.	Final Negotiated	Pearson Reserve Payment	Total WASL Contract Cost
1	2009	\$36,484	\$28,487	\$5,615	\$34,108
2	2010	\$37,756	\$34,050		\$34,050
3	2011	\$39,508	\$35,721		\$35,721
4	2012	\$38,875	\$35,750		\$35,750

Negotiation to Reduce Costs

Item	Notes	4-Year Cost Savings
50% Cut teacher scoring of WASL by half (teachers will score released items in two content areas every year instead of all four areas)	Historically teachers have scored most items that are scheduled for release in reading, math, writing, and science every year	\$1.8M
Eliminate 4 point items in elementary grade levels	Reduces item development, range finding, and scoring costs and stress on students without compromising R/V	\$8.1M
Eliminate teachers on special assignment (TOSAs)	Expert teacher consultants to OSPI and contractors	\$1.6M
Combine Standard and EOC Item Writing	Different bidders between EOC and WASL, negotiated w non-EOC bidder to take on EOC item development w/ no add'l cost	\$5.1M

WASL Add-ons

- ▶ WASL plus EOC, and new accommodations

\$'s in thousands

	Fiscal Year	WASL Only (Includes FY 2009 Reserve)	End-of-Course Negotiated	Translation and Accomod. Negotiated	Negotiated Total
1	2009	\$34,108	\$2,372	\$1,298	\$37,778
2	2010	\$34,050	\$4,348	?	Need accomod. ttl
3	2011	\$35,721	\$5,633	?	“
4	2012	\$35,750	\$5,817	?	“

WASL Negotiated vs. WASL Appropriation

- ▶ WASL plus EOC, and new accommodations

\$'s in thousands

	Fiscal Year	Total WASL, EOC, Accomod.	Appropriation Available	Difference	Cost of New Math Items Due to New Standards
1	2009	\$37,778	\$33,655	(\$4,123)	About \$4 million
2	2010				
3	2011				
4	2012				

Other Bid Components: WAAS-Portfolio

- ▶ Portfolio assessment for 1-2% of student population with “significant cognitive disabilities” for whom a standard assessment is not appropriate
 - ▶ Historically OSPI uses IDEA discretionary funds
- ▶ FY 2008 cost: \$497,000
 - ▶ Pearson dramatically under-bid
 - ▶ PEM submitting bills into hundreds-of-thousands of dollars due to system maturation; mid-contract decision that OSPI staff would score portfolios
- ▶ \$1.2 million increase in 2009 over current costs
 - ▶ Cannot cover increase within current IDEA discretionary; need state \$
 - ▶ Alternative: cut special projects, several of which are legislatively directed, remainder are federal-directed or long-standing small projects
 - ▶ State policy drives a significant portion of IDEA discretionary for safety net

Other Bid Components: Segmented Math

- ▶ FY 2009 Proviso of \$1.4 million solely for segmented math
- ▶ Actual Cost in FY 2009: \$2.4 million
- ▶ Policy considerations
 - ▶ Not an approved alternative
 - ▶ Must be overhauled to reflect new math standards
 - ▶ Duplicative of End-of-Course effort
- ▶ Recommendation:
 - ▶ OSPI does not contract for services; no funds expenditure in FY 2009
 - ▶ Funds lapse to be re-purposed elsewhere in assessment system

Other Bid Components: Collection of Evidence

- ▶ Anticipate that provisos will cover bid and current projections of workload
- ▶ Budget issues are primarily workload driven
 - ▶ Working to reduce costs by reducing workload driven by duplicative COE
 - ▶ 10th grade number of submissions
 - ▶ Re-submissions
 - ▶ Complete submissions
 - ▶ Encourage WASL

End-of-Course Assessments

Spring	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Comprehensive	Old standards	Old standards	New standards: (Class of 2013 in 10 th Grade)	New Standards	New Standards	No Comprehensive WASL
Algebra I Integrated I	Item writing	Pilot items	Required if taking these courses	Required if taking these courses (Class of 2014 in 10 th Grade)	Required if taking these courses	Required if taking these courses
Geometry Integrated II	Item writing	Pilot items	Required if taking these courses	Required if taking these courses (Class of 2014 in 10 th Grade)	Required if taking these courses	Required if taking these courses

Summary of Maintenance Level Adjustments

- ▶ \$4.1 million for WASL (largely associated with additional items)
- ▶ \$1.2 million for WAAS (or fund more safety net from state and use IDEA for intended WAAS)
- ▶ (\$1.4 million) for Segmented Math