

# WASL Update

## Brief Summary of Recent Legislative Activity

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Ben Rarick, House Appropriations Committee Staff  
July, 2008

# 2007 Session – Review

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## ***Chapter 354, Laws of 2007 (ESSB 6023) -- Total appropriation: \$10.8 million***

- \$4.4 million reserved for diagnostic assessments.
- \$5.0 million was budgeted for the estimated costs associated with part-time students who do not pass the math WASL and will be required to take additional math classes to graduate.
- The remaining amount (\$2.4 million) for implementing the remaining provisions of ESSB 6023, including implementing an expanded menu of alternative assessments and establishing appropriate cut scores for the new alternative assessments.

## ***Math & Science Standards and Curriculum -- Total appropriation: \$4.7 million***

- Recommend new math standards aligned with international standards.
- Identify mathematics basic curricula & materials aligned with the new recommended standards.
- Support development of state standards in science that align with international standards, and evaluate textbooks and materials to evaluate extent of alignment.
- Develop science WASL knowledge & skill learning modules to assist 10<sup>th</sup> grade students performing at Level 1 or 2.

# 2008 Session – Review

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## ***WASL Contract Renewal -- \$25.4 million (Maintenance-Level Cost)***

- \$25.4 million was budgeted for the projected cost increases associated with administering the WASL testing system as constituted prior to the start of the 2008 Legislative Session.

## ***Savings from WASL Changes – (\$15.9 million)***

- OSPI to reduce the number of open-ended response items on WASL in grades 3-8.
- Governor proposal for additional ‘progress monitoring tools & other diagnostic tests’ is funded out of the \$4.4 million diagnostic testing proviso from the 2007 Legislative Session.

## ***Implementation of End-of-Course Assessments (E-O-C’s) in Math – \$3.2 million***

- Chapter 163, Laws of 2008 (ESHB 3166) phases in 4 E-O-C’s to replace the high school math WASL.
- The E-O-C’s supplant the math WASL as a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2014, while the class of 2013 may pass either one to meet the graduation requirement.

## ***WASL Transfer to Office of Financial Management -- \$11.4 million***

- \$11.4 million – roughly the amount of all ’08 WASL cost increases – is transferred to OFM, to be released to OSPI based on quarterly reporting requirements via interagency agreement.
- \$150,000 is provided for the deliberations of the WASL Workgroup

## ***Translated & Accommodated WASL - \$1.7 million***

- Translate Math & Science WASL into 6 languages, plus strengthened accommodations for Blind & Dyslexic Students.

# WASL Costs –

## Relevant Budget Provisos in '08 Supplemental Budget

<b>WASL-Related Provisos in K-12 Budget</b>						
<b>Item</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Year Began</b>		
<i>1</i>	<i>Washington Assessment of Student Learning</i>				pre1999	
	General Fund State	\$19,716,000	\$22,146,000	\$41,862,000	N/A	
	ELTA	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$1,350,000	N/A	
<i>2</i>	WASL Transfer Amount to Office of Fin. Management		\$0	\$11,400,000	\$11,400,000	2007-09
	<b>subtotal</b>		<b>\$20,391,000</b>	<b>\$34,221,000</b>	<b>\$54,612,000</b>	
	<i>other relevant items</i>					
<i>3</i>	End of Course Assessment - Math (ESHB 3166)		\$0	\$3,249,000	\$3,249,000	2007-09
<i>4</i>	Diagnostic Testing					2007-09
	General Fund State	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	N/A	
	ELTA	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$4,400,000	N/A	
<i>5</i>	Tenth-grade Math Assessment Tool (Segmented)		\$1,414,000	\$1,414,000	\$2,828,000	2007-09
<i>6</i>	Math & Science Standards (Includes WASL Science Modules)					
	General Fund State		\$2,267,000	\$2,267,000	2007-09	
	ELTA	\$2,367,000		\$2,367,000	2007-09	

### •Observations:

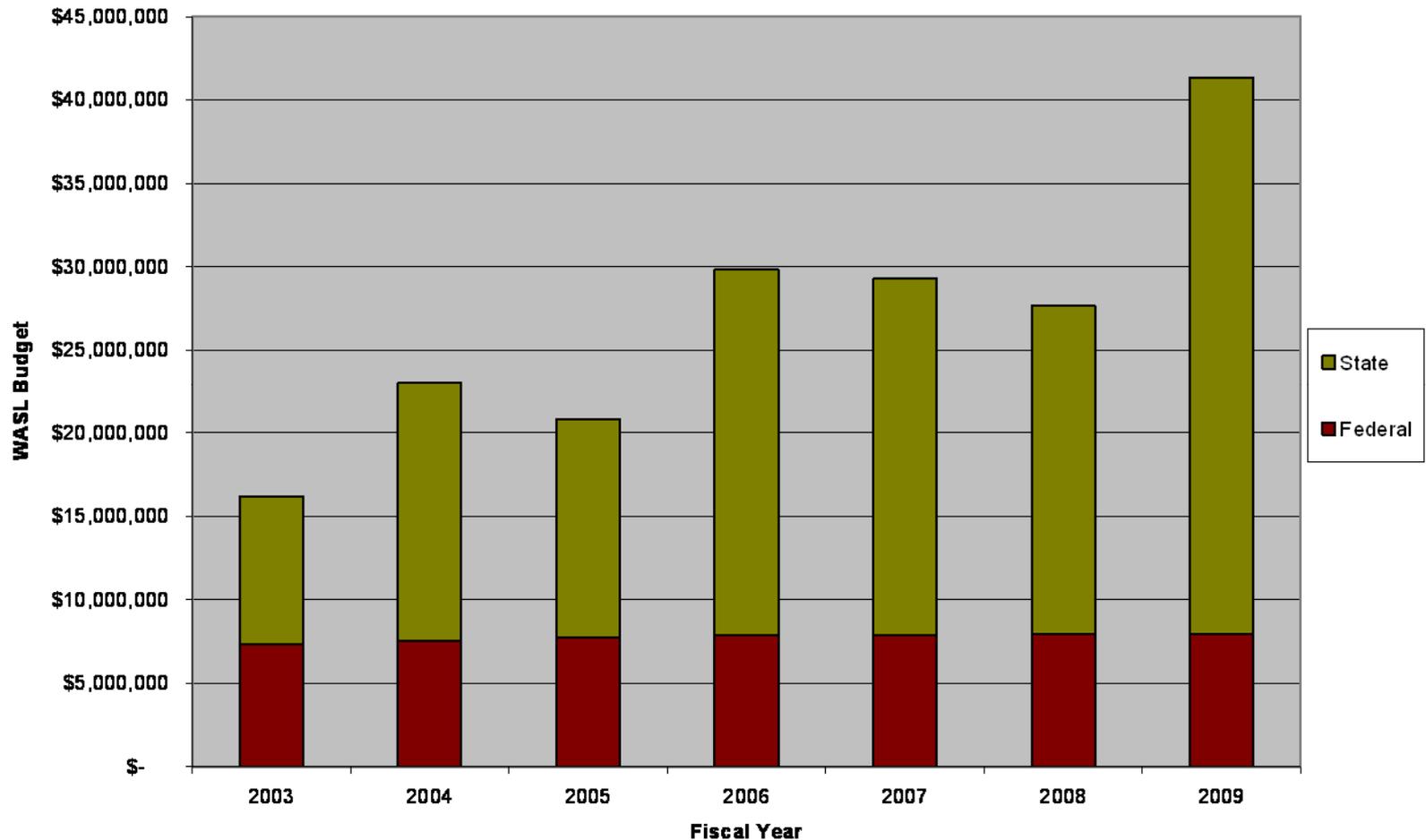
Total biennial WASL budget for 07-09: ~ \$55 million

End-of-Course costs will increase as all four math E-O-C's are phased in.

OSPI currently renegotiating components of WASL contract

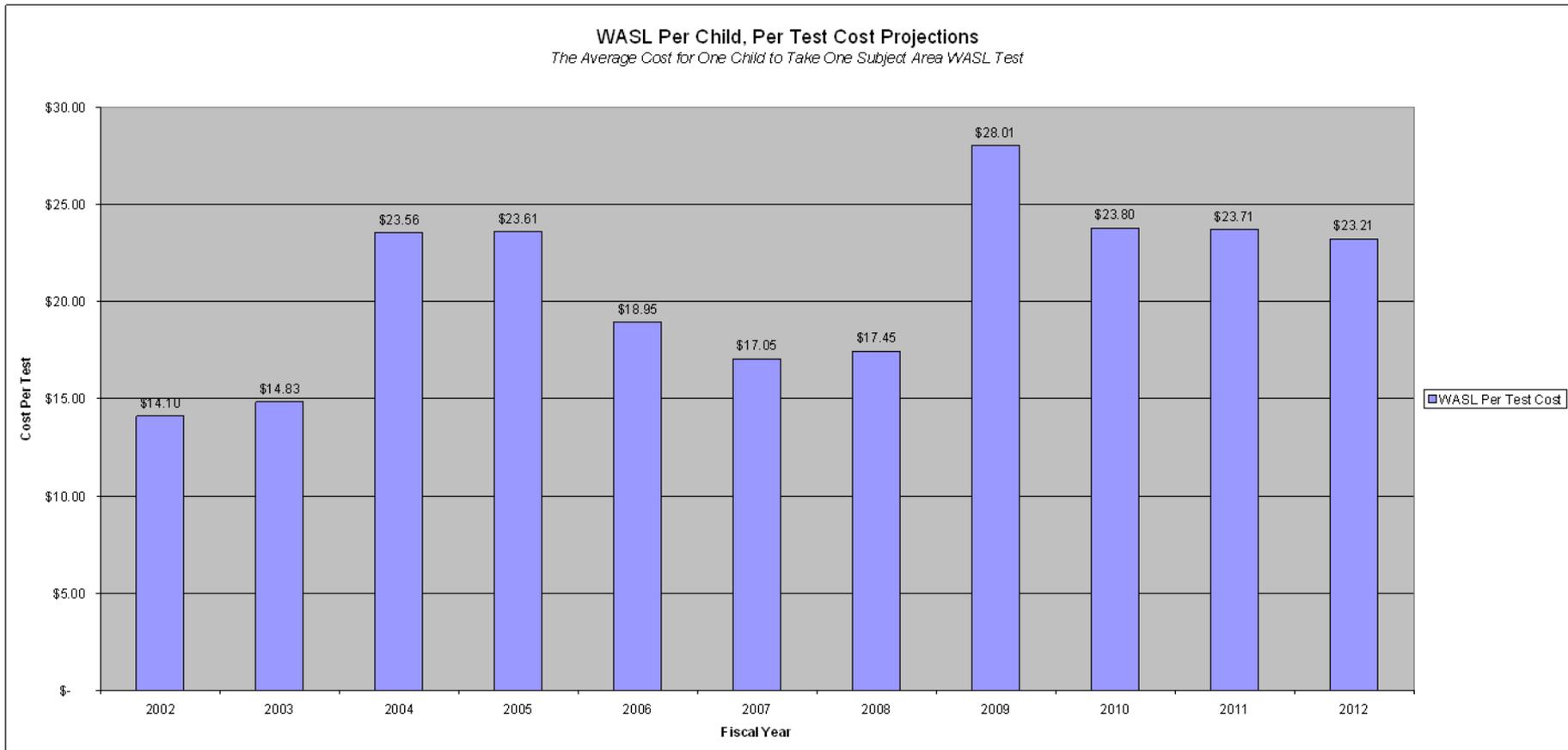
# WASL Budget Over Time

Tracking State & Federal Contributions



# WASL Costs –

Tracking per child, per test costs over time



Note: OSPI Projections from 2008 Session based on Initial Contract Bids – New Contract will change out Year Projections

# Phase-in of End-of-Course Tests in Math

*Projected* Fiscal Detail based on 2008 Fiscal Note

## Phase-in Calendar for End-of-Course Tests

Becomes operational for those class of 2014 8<sup>th</sup> graders taking algebra

WASL Math Discontinued

Required Assessments	2009 SY	2010 SY	2011 SY	2012 SY	2013 SY	2014 SY	2015 SY	2016 SY
10th Grade Math WASL	Required for CO 2013	Not Avail	Not Avail	Not Avail				
Algebra I or Integrated I	Pilot	Operational	Required for CO 2014					
Geometry or Integrated II		Pilot	Operational	Required for CO 2014				

## Projected Costs of Phase-in (actual negotiated rate due from OSPI soon)

Estimated WASL Cost: \$36/test

Estimated End-of-Course Contract: \$75/test

Note that savings from discontinuing the WASL is estimated at ¼ the cost of implementing E-O-C's.

Cost of Section (3)(c)	2009 SY	2010 SY	2011 SY	2012 SY	2013 SY	2014 SY	2015 SY	2016 SY
WASL Cost, \$35.7 per test	ML	ML	ML	\$ (2,879,011)	\$ (2,879,011)	\$ (3,057,511)	\$ (3,057,511)	\$ (3,057,511)
End-of-Course Assessments (w/ Integrated)	\$ 3,249,260	\$ 3,768,326	\$ 7,050,939	\$ 12,758,238	\$ 13,882,584	\$ 15,137,847	\$ 15,623,010	\$ 15,661,515
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,249,260</b>	<b>\$ 3,768,326</b>	<b>\$ 7,050,939</b>	<b>\$ 9,879,227</b>	<b>\$ 11,003,573</b>	<b>\$ 12,080,336</b>	<b>\$ 12,565,499</b>	<b>\$ 12,604,004</b>

Initial costs are relatively low due to partial phase-in (pilot) of one testing strand (algebra I & integrated)

Future costs escalate as a) the tests become operational rather than piloted, b) the full compliment of E-O-C's are implemented, and c) more graduating classes are impacted as the 2014 grad. requirement date approaches.

# New Information on End-of-Course Tests

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- Original fiscal note estimates were considerably higher than negotiated actuals.
  - At full phase-in, negotiated costs for E-O-C appear to be about 60% of original estimates.
- End-of-Course piloting scheduled to occur in 2009-2010 for *both* sets of tests.
  - Originally, algebra I/integrated I were slated for piloting in 2008-09.



# WASL Fiscal Policy Questions

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- Cost implications of phasing in end-of-course to other subject areas (science, other?).
- Balancing the assessment value with the relative expense of open-ended/constructed response questions.
- What is the role of a segmented math tool in light of end-of-course policy direction? (\$2.8 million budgeted)