



# Diagnostic Assessments:

## Recap of Recent State Policy & Fiscal Directions

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Legislative WASL Workgroup  
Staff Presentation  
September 22, 2008

## Current Law (RCW 28A.655.200)

- In addition to diagnostic assessments, school districts may, at their **own expense**, administer **norm-referenced** assessments.
- SPI must post a **guide** to diagnostic assessments on its website, for voluntary use by districts.
- Beginning September 1, 2007, SPI must make diagnostic assessments **available** to districts
  - reading, writing, mathematics, and science
  - elementary, middle, and high school
- Subject to funding, SPI must provide **funding to districts to administer** diagnostic assessments
- SPI shall offer **staff development** activities in:
  - interpretation of diagnostic assessments
  - instructional strategies to increase student learning based on diagnostic assessment data



## Current Law (RCW 28A.655.200)

- To greatest extent possible, **diagnostic assessments must be:**
  - Aligned to GLEs
  - Individualized to student's performance level
  - Administered efficiently to provide results immediately or within 2 weeks
  - Capable of measuring student growth over time
  - Capable of comparing progress to other students across the country
  - Readily available to parents
  - Cost-effective

# Policy & Fiscal History

## 2005 – Statute Adopted

- “Legislature intends to....make diagnostic tools available that provide information that is at least as valuable as the information eliminated under this act.”
- *“By Sept 1, 2005, subject to available funds”...SPI posts guide to diagnostic assessments.....*
- *“By Sept 1, 2006, subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose”....SPI makes diagnostic assessments available to districts*

## 2005 - Budget

- No funding provided

# Policy & Fiscal History

## 2006 – Statute Amended

- “By Sept 1, 2007, .....SPI makes diagnostic assessments available
- Beginning 2006-07, SPI must reimburse school districts for administration of diagnostic assessments in grade 9
- Diagnostic assessments should allow cross-country comparisons and be readily available to parents

## 2006 – Supplemental Budget

- **\$250,000** ...for reimbursement of diagnostic assessments

44 districts received grants via competitive application

53 different assessments

30 (57%) MAP from Northwest Evaluation Association

15 (28%) Another commercial test

7 (13%) District-developed test

# Policy & Fiscal History

## 2007 – Statute Amended

- SPI must post guide to assessments on web (*not subject to funding*)
- “*By Sept 1, 2007, .....SPI makes diagnostic assessments available in reading, writing, mathematics, and science, in elementary, middle, and high school grades*”
- Reimbursement to districts for administration of diagnostic assessments is *subject to funding appropriated for this purpose*

## 2007-09 – Biennial Budget

- **\$4,900,000** for allocations for school districts to *purchase diagnostic assessments*. SPI must negotiate an agreement with vendor(s) to secure competitive pricing and provide quality comparison information regarding available assessment tools.

**\$1.7 million allocated for 07-08 based on \$5 per student**

30% MAP from Northwest Evaluation Association

17% DIBELS

11% district-developed test

6% DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment)

# Policy & Fiscal History

## 2008 – Statute Unchanged

## 2008 – Supplemental Budget

- **\$4,900,000** for development and implementation of diagnostic assessments:
  - Maximum of **\$2,540,000** to support **development and implementation** of voluntary, classroom-based diagnostic assessments and progress monitoring tools for all subject areas included in the WASL by OSPI
  - **\$2,360,000** for **allocations to school districts to purchase** assessment tools that supplement the system of diagnostic tests developed by OSPI (*\$1.7 of which already allocated in 07-08*)

### *OSPI July Presentation to WASL Workgroup:*

#### Classroom Diagnostic Assessments

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

# Questions to Consider

- **What is the state's policy regarding diagnostic assessments?**
  - Develop and provide as part of an assessment system?
  - For voluntary use?
  - Facilitate district choice in selection/use?
  - Provide technical assistance?
- **What is meant by the term "diagnostic" assessment?**
  - Statute refers to both "norm-referenced" and "diagnostic"
  - Description of desirable assessment features is a bit of both
  - To what extent is alignment with state standards important?
- **What is the state's fiscal approach to diagnostic assessments?**
  - Develop and provide?
  - Provide allocation for districts to purchase/administer?
  - Provide competitive grants to support?