

End-of-Course Mathematics Exams

UPDATE

Washington State Board of Education
August 10, 2010 9:00-12:00
OSPI Billings Conference Room, Olympia, WA

Joe Willhoft, Assistant Superintendent
Assessment and Student Information, OSPI



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Division of Assessment and Student Information

Purpose of Update

- State and federal testing requirements for high school mathematics (and science) present some policy challenges
- This update is designed to alert the Board to these issues, and inform the Board of possible approaches toward resolution

Federal Requirements

- NCLB requires a state's assessment program to use the same tests for all students tested in an NCLB grade/subject (English/language arts; mathematics; science)
- Schools/districts testing less than 95% of students in every subgroup will not meet AYP. Schools/districts are prohibited from excluding groups of students from testing.
- So, when the state moves its high school tests to an end-of-course (EOC) assessment system, all students will be required to be assessed in common on the same EOC.

Federal Requirements (cont.)

- Though not finalized, the state's NCLB assessment for high school will probably be the Algebra I/Integrated I EOC. This is a test the state can expect all students to have been assessed on by the end of 10th grade.
- If the state requires all students to be assessed on a test, accepted professional and ethical standards expect that all students will have had the opportunity to learn the content on the test.

State Requirements

- The State Board has established high school graduation requirements in WAC 180-51.
- WAC 180.51.115 allows local determination of “exemption from any requirement in [WAC 180-51], if such requirement impedes the student’s progress toward graduation and there is a direct relationship between the failure to meet the requirement and the student’s limitation.”
- Many students with disabilities will not take Alg I/Math I in high school. Testing these students on an EOC test when they have not had an opportunity to learn the content presents a fairness issue

Discussion of Possible Solutions

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Division of Assessment and Student Information

