

Public Notice from the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Waiver Request to the U.S. Department of Education

Notice to the public of OSPI's intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver to waive the provision on use of student growth on state assessments in teacher and principal evaluations in Washington state's school improvement grant schools (SIG)–Cohort III

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to notify districts that the agency is requesting from the United States Department of Education (ED) a waiver of the federal requirement for LEAs implementing the Transformation model in their SIG–Cohort III school(s) to use student growth data based on a student's score on the State's summative assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics in teacher and principal evaluation under section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA (from [Federal Register /Vol. 75, No. 208 /Thursday, October 28, 2010 /Notices](#), page 66368). Comments regarding this request must be submitted to OSPI by **February 11, 2015**. This information will be included in the waiver request to ED. Please direct your comments to Diane Gard, Executive Assistant, at: diane.gard@k12.wa.us.

Washington requests to waive the requirement to use student growth on State summative assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics until 2016-17 (Year 3 for SIG–Cohort III) for the following reasons:

- Four of our School Improvement Grant (SIG) –Cohort III schools participated in the Smarter Balanced Assessment field test administered in spring 2014. Therefore, these schools do not have spring 2014 data on State summative assessments that can serve as baseline data for goal-setting and calculating student growth.
- The launch of Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments has been delayed and will not be usable in a “year-at-a-glance” format until 2015-16.
- Current Washington State law does not require the use of student growth on State summative assessments in teacher and principal evaluation. This challenge was the chief reason Washington's ESEA flexibility was not extended into 2014–15.

Washington proposes the following to address the intent of the SIG Guidance regarding use of student growth in teacher and principal evaluations*. The proposal is anchored in the rigorous implementation of Washington's Teacher Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP). This evaluation system is the result of a multi-year collaboration between Washington's SEA, Association of Washington State Principals (AWSP), Washington Education Association, and various other stakeholders (see <http://tpep-wa.org/> for additional information). Washington requires each of its 295 school districts to adopt and implement (a) one of three instructional frameworks (Danielson, Marzano, or CEL-5-D) and (b) one of two leadership frameworks (AWSP or Marzano) to use in the teacher and principal evaluation process.

The TPEP structure is impartial to both the instructional and leadership frameworks, that is, districts are required to embed student growth as part of the evaluation process regardless of the frameworks chosen by the district.

- **2015-16:** Beginning in September 2015, multiple measures of student growth will be incorporated in the evaluation for every teacher and principal in Washington. Multiple measures can include classroom-based, school-based, district-based, and/or state-based assessments. Hence, even though student growth on State assessments may not be available, all teachers and principals in Washington State, including those

in SIG–Cohort III, will still be evaluated based on other measures of student growth (e.g., classroom-based, school-based, and/or district-based assessments) beginning in 2015-16. Details describing the use of student growth in the evaluation process are available at <http://tpep-wa.org/trainingpd/tpep-training-modules/student-growth-module/>.

- Washington State Criteria Student Growth Rubrics: <http://tpep-wa.org/wp-content/uploads/wa-student-growth-rubrics.pdf>
 - Danielson Comprehensive and Focused Evaluation showing the use of student growth: <http://tpep-wa.org/wp-content/uploads/DAN%20-%20CompVSFocus.pdf>
 - Marzano Comprehensive and Focused Evaluation showing the use of student growth: <http://tpep-wa.org/wp-content/uploads/MAR%20-%20CompVSFocus.pdf>
 - CEL Comprehensive and Focused Evaluation showing the use of student growth: <http://tpep-wa.org/wp-content/uploads/CEL%20-%20CompVSFocus.pdf>
- **2016-17** and beyond: If required, use student growth on State summative assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics as data points for teacher and principal evaluation in SIG schools.

**This waiver request and proposal could be revisited if the Washington State Legislature changes the law in the 2015 legislative session requiring the use of student growth on State summative assessments as part of the teacher and principal evaluation process for all LEAs.*

Washington believes this proposal will meet the intent of the SIG Guidance to use student growth in teacher and principal evaluation and honors the collaborative work and processes developed for the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project.

I would add that one of our regional Educational Service Districts (ESD) received a federal Race to the Top Grant <http://www.psesd.org/regional-initiatives/race-to-the-top/>. This grant has similar requirements around use of student growth on State assessments. In December 2014, the ESD submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education to waive the use of student growth on State assessments. We understand that the Department will make its determination about the ESD's request in January or February 2015.

In summary, OSPI assures that, if granted the requested waiver, the agency will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by September 30, 2015, a report that provides the types of student growth data that will be used in teacher and principal evaluations for SIG–Cohort III for the 2015-16 school year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Andrew Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, Student and School Success at (360) 725-4960 email andrew.kelly@k12.wa.us.