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## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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October 15, 2015

The Honorable Ann Whalen  
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

RE: Partially Granted Waiver Provision on Use of Student Growth on State Assessments in Teacher and Principal Evaluations in Washington's School Improvement Grant (SIG)-Cohort III Schools.

Dear Assistant Secretary Whalen:

As indicated in our waiver request submitted on February 12, 2015, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) indicated it would assure the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that student growth data will be used in teacher and principal evaluations for SIG-Cohort III for the 2015–16 school year. Specific information follows.

- Schools that field-tested Smarter Balanced assessments in spring 2014—ED granted Washington's request to delay use of student growth on state summative assessments for these schools until the 2016–17 school year. Because of this, field-test schools will use student growth on at least two of the following assessments in the teacher and principal evaluation process: classroom-based, school-based, and/or district-based assessments. Use of these assessments aligns with the teacher and principal evaluation system used by all public schools and districts in Washington. More information is available at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/edleg/tpep/default.aspx>.
- Schools that did not field test Smarter Balanced assessments in spring 2014—These schools will use student growth on state summative assessments in English language arts and mathematics when available and appropriate, as well as at least two of the following assessments in the teacher and principal evaluation system: classroom-based, school-based, and/or district-based assessments.

If questions arise, please feel free to contact me by phone at 360-725-4960 or by email at [michael.merrin@k12.wa.us](mailto:michael.merrin@k12.wa.us).

Sincerely,

Michael L. Merrin, Assistant Superintendent  
Student and School Success

cc: Dr. Gil Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent K-12 Education