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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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August 24, 2017

( ) Action Required  
(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 065-17 ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School District Assessment Coordinators

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Expedited Waivers for Assessment Graduation Requirements for Classes of 2014 Through 2018

CONTACT: Deb Came, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Student Information  
360-725-6336, [deb.came@k12.wa.us](mailto:deb.came@k12.wa.us)  
Lindsey Bullough, Alternatives Assessment Specialist  
360-725-6223, [lindsey.bullough@k12.wa.us](mailto:lindsey.bullough@k12.wa.us)

### **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

[RCW 28A.655.065](#) as amended by [Engrossed Substitute House Bill \(ESHB\) 2224](#), signed by Governor Inslee on July 7, affects high school assessments and graduation requirements. One component of the new law is an expedited appeal process for waiving specific assessment graduation requirements for eligible students in the Classes of 2014 through 2018.

### **WAIVER ELIGIBILITY**

Some students in the Classes of 2014 through 2018 are eligible to have their assessment graduation requirements (English language arts (ELA), math, or both) waived if the school district certifies that the student has demonstrated the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the high school graduation standard and that the student has the skills necessary to successfully achieve the college or career goals established in his or her high school and beyond plan.

Students in the Classes of 2014 through 2017 are eligible if they have met all other graduation requirements.

Students in the Class of 2018 are eligible if:

1. They have met all other graduation requirements; and
2. They have attempted an alternative assessment option as established in [RCW 28A.655.065](#) before submitting a waiver request. Alternative assessment options include SAT, ACT, AP, or IB tests; GPA comparison; Collections of Evidence submitted by June 2017; or Certificate of Individual Achievement Options.

**NOTE:** Science as an assessment graduation requirement has been delayed until the Class of 2021. Students in Classes prior to the Class of 2021 do not need to pass a science test to graduate.

#### **WAIVER SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Students, parents, guardians, or principals may initiate a waiver request for an eligible student through the student's school district. The district has the authority to determine which expedited waiver appeals are submitted to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for review and approval.

School districts must submit expedited waiver appeals to OSPI through the Expedited Assessment Appeals tool in the Graduation Alternatives application within the [Education Data System \(EDS\)](#). Directions for use are available under the "Supports" section of the [Graduation Alternatives Application](#) webpage.

#### **WAIVER APPROVAL PROCESS**

The application will ask school district officials to certify, by checking a box, that the student has met the waiver criteria in ESHB 2224.

An Expedited Assessment Appeals Waiver will be granted if the student has:

1. Met eligibility requirements for their graduation cohort year,
2. Fulfilled all other graduation requirements, and
3. Demonstrated the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the high school graduation standard.

#### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Deb Came, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Student Information at 360-725-6336 or email [deb.came@k12.wa.us](mailto:deb.came@k12.wa.us). For questions regarding the submission process, please contact Lindsey Bullough, Graduation Alternatives Assessment Specialist, at 360-725-6223 or email [lindsey.bullough@k12.wa.us](mailto:lindsey.bullough@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

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Additional information from OSPI will be forthcoming about the new law.

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at

<http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT

Deputy Superintendent

Deb Came, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Assessment and Student Information

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