



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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June 10, 2003

() Action Required
(X) Informational

MEMORANDUM NO. 37-03M LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
Chief School District Administrators
School Principals
School District Assessment Coordinators
School Public Relations Professionals

FROM: Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2003 WASL Data and Score Release Information

This memorandum is to inform you about a number of important dates related to the scoring of the 2003 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Please read this memorandum carefully and take the time to share this information widely with other key staff in your school and/or district.

- 1. Electronic WASL Data Files**—Electronic WASL data files without science scale scores will be available from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) beginning July 25. Data files will be sent via email in text tab delimited format unless SPSS or Excel formats are requested. All requests for WASL data must be made to Kim DeRousie at kderousie@ospi.wednet.edu or 360.725.6350 by July 1.

The Washington Query System© (WQS-Query) 4.0 will be available for download from the OSPI Website beginning August 2. The Query program will not run on Macintosh computers beginning with the spring 2003 WASL data release due to vendor upgrades and the necessity for revisions to incorporate expanded data. Electronic Query WASL data files without science scaled scores will be available from OSPI beginning July 28.

- 2. Preliminary Hardcopy WASL Results**—Districts will be receiving their preliminary WASL school rosters and summaries with Washington Alternative Assessment System (WAAS) data during the week of August 1–6. Districts are receiving results in early August so they can be shared with staff before the beginning of the school year. We encourage you to first review the data carefully to make certain there were no coding errors made when the test was administered. The WAAS reports will be received August 29–September 4.

- 3. WASL Demographic Record Changes**—The SchoolHouse© record change Website will be open for districts to review and revise their files from July 31–August 11. Paper rosters will arrive in school districts August 1–6. Schools and districts are encouraged to review their data during this window as these data will be used to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

You are encouraged to review your data carefully, paying special attention to the classification of students who were not tested (exempted, absent, no longer enrolled, refusals, and previously passed) as these classifications impact your reports. Also check to see if students have been assigned additional booklets. This can occur if students move during the testing window. Finally, check to see if the number of students tested matches your April P105-A enrollment report. These counts affect the calculation of the percent of students meeting standards.

Training on the use of the SchoolHouse© record change system will be available on the OSPI Website through a PowerPoint© presentation. Edits submitted during the July 31 through August 11 window will be reflected on the Website when final results are posted. Information about the record change process is available from Kim DeRousie at kderousie@ospi.wednet.edu or 360.725.6350.

- 4. 2003 Released Items**—By the end of the first week in August, the released items from the 2003 assessments and annotations for Writing, Grades 4 and 7, will be available on the OSPI Website. School, district and state performance data on those items also will be available on the Website (for schools and districts testing 10 or more students). Districts and schools with fewer than 10 students tested will receive printed copies of their reports during the week of August 12–16. Reports will be mailed to districts for distribution to schools. All districts will receive printed copies of the released items and data reports by the end of August.
- 5. Communication Workshops**—OSPI and the Partnership for Learning will host three communication workshops during late August to help education professionals prepare for the WASL score release. The workshops will provide targeted information and materials to help you communicate about the WASL and the new requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Particular attention will be given to key NCLB requirements such as AYP and how to make these requirements understandable to parents and other members of your communities. These free workshops are tentatively scheduled to be held the week of August 18 in Spokane, Yakima, and Seattle. Superintendents, principals, public relations professionals, and others who are key communicators in your district are encouraged to attend. A save-the-date email outlining the agenda for these workshops will be sent as soon as dates and locations are finalized. You may also check the OSPI Website (www.k12.wa.us) and the Partnership's Website (www.partnership4learning.org) for updates throughout the summer.

June 10, 2003

6. **Reaching Higher**—The OSPI publication *Reaching Higher: A Parent's Guide to the WASL* will be mailed directly to schools in late summer. Translations in Russian and Spanish will also be provided. Please ask staff to be aware of this shipment; boxes will be marked with OSPI publications stickers. These materials are being shipped free of charge to the schools and districts, and 20 extra copies will be mailed to each district's assessment coordinator. Additional orders can be placed from the OSPI Website at www.k12.wa.us/publications or by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-888-59-LEARN.
7. **State Score Release**—OSPI will attempt to release statewide score information earlier than its normal timeline. We cannot commit to this however, due to the complexity of the data compilation issues we are facing this year.

Questions about the WASL should be directed to Paul Dugger, our state assessment coordinator, at 360.725.6333 or TTY 360.664.3631 or by email at pdugger@ospi.wednet.edu.

This memorandum is also available on the OSPI Website at the following URL:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/bulletinsmemos/>.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

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