

# Secondary Education and School Improvement



## Reading Benchmark Assessments

### Overview & Purpose

The Reading Benchmark Assessments (RBAs) are standards-based interim assessments developed for grades 1 through 10. The RBAs will be administered fall, winter, and spring to provide ongoing information about teaching and learning in relation to State reading comprehension and vocabulary standards, with only a spring administration in grade 1. The 2011—2012 RBA pilot will build on the successful implementation of Mathematics Benchmark Assessments delivered through the *WIIN* Center in 22 school districts serving over 95,000 students.

The **purposes** of the RBAs are to provide a bridge between classroom formative assessments and end-of-year summative assessments and to supply information to:



- Evaluate student learning of specific State reading comprehension standards;
- Identify specific student strengths and opportunities for growth in reading as they relate to the content in the assessed standards;
- Identify student instructional needs through collaborative data dialogue to adapt instruction and curriculum materials to better enable student proficiency; and
- Provide feedback to students for reflection to enable motivation and deepening of learning.

### Test Design

Secondary Education and School Improvement (SE/SI) staff led the development of the RBAs in spring 2011. The collaborative RBA development process involved OSPI reading specialists, ESD reading and school improvement specialists, and district teachers and leaders. Participants worked with the end in mind of providing deep and meaningful information about student learning of State standards through implementation of the RBAs. The RBAs were designed around Washington State Reading Grade Level Expectations. The standards assessed on the RBA address critical prerequisite skills and applications of grade level standards.

**Assessing a focused set of standards enables the RBAs to provide detailed information for educators to make data-based instructional and program decisions.** All participating districts will assess the same set of standards with the same items and test forms over the course of the school year.



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### Professional Development & Technical Assistance

During implementation of RBAs, positive outcomes in districts and schools are realized when:

- Teachers are actively engaged in understanding the purpose, test design, and standards assessed; and
- Teachers and district leaders analyze assessment results at the school, grade, and classroom levels after each testing period to make instructional and program improvements.

OSPI will provide professional development and technical assistance to ensure participating districts and schools are supported in the implementation and the use of the RBAs.

PD Session	Participants	Description
<b>RBA Overview</b> (1/2 day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District/school reading leadership teams</li> <li>• District Instruction &amp; Assessment Leads</li> </ul>	Provides an overview of the purpose and test design of the RBAs, administration procedures, and the web-based student assessment system used to develop the RBAs and report student results.
<b>RBA Data Analysis &amp; Instructional Improvement</b> (3 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Principals</li> <li>• Instructional Coaches</li> <li>• Teacher Leaders</li> </ul>	Enables participants to understand how to access and analyze assessment data and use student results in an instructional decision making process. (1 day following each administration period.)

Beyond the professional development, OSPI will also provide on-going **technical assistance** customized to district/school need to ensure all staff members engage in understanding the RBAs and participate in the data analysis and instructional improvement process. The OSPI/district partnership ensures the RBAs reach full implementation.

### Data Analysis & Reporting

OSPI partners with Houghton-Mifflin/Riverside Publishing in the use of *DataDirector*, a web-based student assessment and data system, for developing the RBAs and reporting their results. *DataDirector* offers a flexible and efficient assessment management system that makes creating, administering, analyzing, and reporting all types of assessments easy.

Exam reports provide the opportunity for teachers and district leaders to easily analyze RBA data to identify student strengths and areas for improvement. Reports are provided at the classroom, grade/course, school, and district levels, and student performance is displayed by test, standard, and item.

Student Name	# Points	Washington 5.5.B	Washington 5.1.C	Washington 5.1.F	Average
Total Items:		6	7	7	26
Total Points:	26	6	7	7	26
Student A	21	100%	100%	42.86%	80.77%
Student B	19	100%	71.43%	57.14%	73.08%
Student C	17	83.33%	85.71%	28.57%	65.38%
Student D	10	83.33%	14.29%	42.86%	38.46%
Student E	24	100%	100%	71.43%	92.31%
Student F	20	83.33%	85.71%	42.86%	76.92%
Student G	16	100%	85.71%	0%	61.54%
Student H	18	83.33%	71.43%	42.86%	69.23%
Student I	4	66.67%	0%	0%	15.38%
Student J	21	100%	100%	42.86%	80.77%

Through access to banks of high-quality items aligned to Washington State reading and mathematics standards, educators can also use *DataDirector* to design formative and interim assessments for local use, analyze results, and generate related reports.