



## The SEAC Recommendation

# De-Link Passage of Statewide Assessment with Graduation Requirements

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Statewide Assessments, through Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), are intended to be a check to ensure states and districts are attending to, and closing achievement gaps. The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports the use of statewide assessments as a tool to measure our education system to ensure public education meets the needs of students with disabilities, as well as other sub-groups such as English learners, low-income students, racial minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and those in foster care.

The SEAC holds the fundamental beliefs of growth mindset and authentic measurement of student learning. We are committed to individualized programming for students with disabilities, and removing barriers that limit access and opportunity. Thus, we strongly recommend de-linking the passage of statewide assessment with graduation requirements.

By removing the passage of statewide assessment as a requirement to graduation, we also eliminate the need to create many alternative pathways that have the unintended consequence of lowering expectations for students with disabilities. While alternatives may continue to be necessary to ensure accurate measurement of knowledge, de-linking statewide assessment to graduation would eliminate the need for the route to a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). The CIA methodology has created a system where 3/4s of students with disabilities in Washington have been placed on an alternative pathway to graduation that sets a lower bar of expected academic achievement.

### **Other Resources:**

#### **OSP–Special Education–SEAC:**

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/SEAC/default.aspx>

**SEAC Email:** [SEAC@k12.wa.us](mailto:SEAC@k12.wa.us)

#### **OSPI–Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/waOSPI>

**OSPI–Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/waOSPI>

**OSPI-Special Education:** 360-725-6075