



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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May 7, 2019

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 025-19 ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School Building Principals
School District Business Managers
School District Assessment Coordinators
School District Special Education Directors
Educational Service District Special Education Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Expedited Waivers for Assessment Graduation Requirements
Extended for Class of 2019

CONTACT: Deb Came, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
360-725-6336, deb.came@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

[House Bill \(HB\) 1599](#) transforms the assessment expectations for graduation and how students can approach fulfilling requirements for earning a diploma. This bulletin is focused on how HB 1599 impacts the Class of 2019, specifically the extension of the expedited appeal process (also known as the “waiver”) that was first introduced in fall of 2017. More communication on the impacts of this new legislation will be released as schools and districts prepare for the 2019–20 school year.

Originally, the Expedited Assessment Appeal (EAA) was established for students in the Classes of 2014 through 2018. With HB 1599, the EAA is also available to students in the class of 2019. Note that for students in the Class of 2019, all other alternatives to fulfillment of assessment requirements for graduation remain available for use. More information about the Class of 2020 will be provided later.

EAA WAIVER ELIGIBILITY FOR CLASS OF 2019

Students in the Class of 2019 may be eligible to have their assessment graduation requirements (English language arts [ELA], math, or both) waived. Students must have also fulfilled all other [graduation requirements](#) (credits, High School and Beyond Plan, and any other local requirements) to be eligible to use the EAA. They are not required to attempt an alternative assessment in order to be eligible for the waiver. Finally, as outlined in the law, school

districts must certify that eligible students have demonstrated the necessary skills and knowledge of the high school learning standards and have the skills necessary to successfully achieve the college or career goals established in their High School and Beyond Plans.

EAA 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 makes the final determination on which waiver requests are submitted to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for review and approval.

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

EAA WAIVER APPROVAL PROCESS

The application will ask school district officials to certify, by checking a box, the student has met the waiver criteria detailed in [RCW 28A.655.065](#) as described in the Eligibility section above.

An EAA waiver will be granted if the district's request to OSPI demonstrates the student has the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the high school graduation standard and to achieve the goals detailed in their High School and Beyond Plan. Routes for demonstrating those skills include:

- (A) Successful completion of a college-level class in the relevant subject area.
- (B) Admission to a higher education institution or career preparation program.
- (C) Award of a scholarship for higher education.
- (D) Enlistment in a branch of the military.

Beyond these four specified routes, there are other ways to demonstrate the skills. Resources are available on the [Expedited Assessment Appeal "Other" Pathway](#) webpage to assist districts in preparing waiver requests.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Deb Came, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Student Information, at 360-725-6336 or email deb.came@k12.wa.us. For questions regarding the submission process, please contact Clarisse Leong, Graduation Alternatives Assessment Specialist, at 360-725-6223 or email clarisse.leong@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

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Assessment and Student Information

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