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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 037-21 ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION

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

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Fall 2021 Assessment

CONTACT: Dr. Deb Came, Assistant Superintendent
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Toni Wheeler, Alternate Assessment Coordinator
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

On April 14, Superintendent Reykdal [announced](#) that the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) would delay federally mandated Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) from spring 2021 to fall 2021. Washington submitted a waiver [request](#) to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and a portion of the waiver, related to federal accountability requirement, was [approved](#). Although ED did not grant flexibility on the requirements to administer assessments or report on individual or school/district level results, they did offer flexibility on the test window and test length.

In planning for the fall assessments, OSPI's goal has been to minimize the impact to scheduling and classroom instructional time while complying with state and federal requirements. The information below can assist as you plan for the fall test administration.

Shorter Tests

Given that ED offered states some flexibility to have shorter assessments, the fall 2021 SBA and WCAS will be shorter than they have been in previous years. All tests have been shortened to be administered in a single online session. For SBA math and English language arts, students

will take only a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) and not have a Performance Task (PT). For the WCAS, students will take a test with fewer questions. The English language arts SBA is estimated to take 75 minutes, the math SBA is estimated to take 60 minutes, and the WCAS is estimated to take 45 minutes. The tests remain untimed, so individual student testing times will vary.

Grade Levels and Content Areas for Testing

The fall tests are an extension of the 2020–21 school year, and thus students will be taking tests corresponding to their grade level in the 2020–21 school year. For example, a student who is a 4th grader in the 2021–22 school year would take a 3rd grade test in fall 2021. The table below shows the fall 2021 testing picture across all grade levels. The top row of the table shows the student’s grade during the 2021–22 school year, and the columns underneath show the test(s) by subject the student would take in fall 2021.

Fall 2021 Grade:	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Subject		3 ELA	4 ELA	5 ELA	6 ELA	7 ELA	8 ELA		10 ELA	<i>Optional (Graduation Pathways)</i>
		3 Math	4 Math	5 Math	6 Math	7 Math	8 Math		10 Math	<i>Optional (Graduation Pathways)</i>
				5 Science			8 Science			11 Science

Test Window

The SBA and WCAS administration window will be September 27 through November 10. This is the window for both online and paper testing.

Timely Student-level Results

Individual student results from the SBA will be available within five days of a student completing testing. WCAS requires some hand-scoring of responses, and results will be available within 10 days of a student completing testing.

These shorter tests will only generate an overall result for each student and will not have Claim or Reporting Area scores at the individual student level.

Pathways

Students who are 11th graders in the 2021–22 school year (who would have tested as 10th graders in the spring of 2021) will be taking the high school ELA and math assessments in fall 2021. The fall 2021 tests in both math and English language arts can be used to meet a

graduation pathway requirement if that corresponds to the student's High School and Beyond Plan. Students in the Class of 2022, who did not have an opportunity to take ELA or math assessments in spring 2020, may choose to test during the 2021–22 school year for purposes of meeting a graduation pathway requirement if it aligns with their High School and Beyond Plan.

WA-AIM

Student with the most significant cognitive disabilities may have tested in the spring. Students unable to be tested during the spring 2021 window will be expected to participate in the fall 2021 window. The test window will be September 27 through December 10. The fall window will be available for:

- Students unable to be tested during the spring 2021 window in one or more required content areas.
- 11th and 12th graders needing a retake opportunity to fulfill their graduation pathway as outlined in their IEP and High School and Beyond Plan.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Dr. Deb Came, Assistant Superintendent, at 360-725-6336 or email deb.came@k12.wa.us. For questions regarding the general assessment email assessment@k12.wa.us. For questions regarding the alternate assessment contact Toni Wheeler, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, at 360-725-4970 or email toni.wheeler@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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Assessment and Student Information

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