



UPDATE: Educational Technology Assessments

2016

Authorizing legislation: RCW 28A.655.075

[\(<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.655.075>\)](http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.655.075)

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Executive Summary

Educational technology assessments developed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) are voluntarily administered in the elementary, middle, and high school grades. Teachers use the assessments to determine if students meet Washington's standards for educational technology. The assessments integrate standards from science, math, health, English language arts, social studies, and the arts.

In the 2015–16 school year, school districts provided data on classroom-level use of educational technology assessments. This is the fifth year of the data collection. Districts must self-report *only if teachers used the OSPI-developed assessments*. There is no requirement to enter data related to specific assessments or other assessment strategies.

These are the results:

- 42% of Washington school districts reported using an OSPI-developed assessment for educational technology (unchanged from 2014–15).

The most-used assessments were those that included standards for social studies: *"You Decide"* and *"Constitutional Issues."*

- The educational technology assessments adapt well to instructional planning.
- The assessments helped students apply new knowledge across other subject areas.
- In some districts, students used the assessments to produce standardized samples of successful work for graduation portfolios.
- Districts want training for teachers that focuses on instructional technology and authentic assessment strategies.

Background

In 2008, OSPI set standards for students in technology literacy and fluency, as directed by RCW 28A.655.075. In 2011, OSPI released educational technology assessments for classroom and project-based use to determine if students meet Washington’s standards. The law also directs OSPI to report annually to the legislature on the number of school districts that use the assessments each school year.

The assessments integrate and align with Washington’s K–12 Learning Standards. Classroom activities are well-guided, easy to use, and come with an inventory of free and low-cost digital resources.

Teachers began to use the assessments in the 2011–12 school year. School districts are not required to use the OSPI-developed assessments, but if they do, they must report their use to OSPI. The 2015–16 school year is the fifth year for which we have data.

Update Status

Of the 295 school districts, 125 reported using an OSPI-developed assessment for educational technology in one or more grade levels. These data are self-reported by district-level staff whose understanding of assessment practice in the classroom could be limited. For this reason, we suspect the number of classrooms using the assessments is higher, but going unreported.

Teachers used the educational technology assessments that include standards for social studies— “You Decide” and “Constitutional Issues”—more often than the other assessments.

Table 1: Educational Technology Assessments Reported Used in 2015–16

	Districts Reporting	Total # of Assessments	Most-Used Assessment
Elementary	104	26,283	You Decide (9,430)
Middle School	100	23,839	Constitutional Issues (9,740)
High School	83	18,967	Constitutional Issues (6,731)

Districts began reporting the unduplicated count of students that were assessed at each level in 2014-15. Here were the student counts reported in 2014-15 and 2015-16:

Table 2: Number of Students Assessed in Educational Technology

Year	Elementary	Middle School	High School
2014-15	26,589	22,265	17,796
2015-16	36,430	30,095	24,176

Conclusion and Next Steps

OSPI will continue to gather this annual data. If funding is available, OSPI will work on further alignment with the Washington K–12 learning standards. Visit the Educational Technology site for more information (<http://www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/Assessment/default.aspx>).

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