

*Session 156*

**Comprehensive Assessment Systems:  
The View from the Trenches**

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# Washington's Current Assessment System

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- ▶ NCLB Reading, Math tests in 3-8 and high school
- ▶ Science tests in 5, 8, and high school
- ▶ Direct writing assessment in 4, 7 and high school
- ▶ Extensive use of CR items (about half of points on R, M, S)
- ▶ Alternate achievement standards assessed with portfolio

# Washington's Current Assessment System

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- ▶ Reading and Writing are a HS graduation requirement
- ▶ No translated assessments
- ▶ Spring testing:
  - ▶ HS results in early June
  - ▶ Grades 3-8 in mid-August
- ▶ Comprehensive on-line reporting/re-rostering system

# Scores Reported in Current System

- ▶ **Level scores at four proficiency levels:**
  - ▶ L1 = Below Basic; L2 = Basic; L3 = Proficient; L4 = Advanced
- ▶ **Scale Scores:**
  - ▶ 375 = L1/L2 cut; 400 = L2/L3 cut; L3/L4 cut varies by test/grade
- ▶ **No vertical scaling across grade levels**
- ▶ **“Strand Scores” within content areas**
  - ▶ Reported as “+” or “-” for individuals
  - ▶ Shown as Pct with “+” and Pct with “-” for groups
- ▶ **School/district accountability reporting:**
  - ▶ Percent meeting standard
  - ▶ “Learning Improvement Index” (average “Level” score)

# Purposes of the State's Assessment System

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- ▶ **School and district accountability**
  - ▶ Grade 4, 7, 10 testing legislatively required since 1997
  - ▶ Grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 added for NCLB in 2006
  - ▶ State Board of Education accountability system under development

# Purposes of the State's Assessment System

- ▶ High school graduation requirement
  - ▶ Reading and Writing implemented in 2008
  - ▶ Math postponed to 2013 after 2006 results
  - ▶ Science scheduled for 2013
  - ▶ Multiple options:
    - ▶ Twice-a-year retesting
    - ▶ Collection of work samples
    - ▶ SAT/ACT/AP alternatives
    - ▶ Assessment/GPA comparison

# State-supported Outreach to Teachers and Districts

- ▶ All item development conducted by Washington teachers
  - ▶ Item writing; Content review; Data review; Range-finding for CR items
- ▶ Teacher scoring for Writing test and released CR items (about 1/3 of items)
- ▶ 100% teacher scoring of Portfolio assessment
- ▶ “Assessment Leadership Teams” in content areas:
  - ▶ RALT, MALT, WALT, SALT, SEALT
  - ▶ Twice-a-year meetings; requirement for regional support
- ▶ \$5 per student for locally-identified diagnostic tools
- ▶ Instructional “modules” aligned to state assessment

# Shortcomings of the State's Assessment Program

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## Assessment Components Not Currently Supported at State Level

- ▶ Progress monitoring/formative assessments aligned to state standards
- ▶ Evaluation of or support for alignment of instructional products to state standards
- ▶ Evaluation of or support for alignment of assessment products to state standards
- ▶ Models to judge year-to-year student progress

# Legislatively-approved Enhancements to State's Assessment Program

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## Components Funded with New Contract

- ▶ Aligned diagnostic and progress monitoring/formative assessment tools for teacher use
- ▶ Identification of curricular materials aligned to state standards, with pricing agreements
- ▶ Evaluation of commercially-available diagnostic assessment tools
- ▶ Vertical scaling of Reading test (Math test being revised to new content standards)

# Discussion/Questions

