

# EDUCATOR ASSESSMENT DATA REPORT

*December 1, 2021*

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) establishes the requirements to earn and maintain educator certification, permitting teachers, administrators, and educational staff associates to work in Washington schools. To earn a residency teacher certificate, candidates must take the basic skills assessment and pass a content knowledge assessment. Additionally, teacher candidates who are enrolled in PESB-approved teacher preparation programs are required to meet the performance assessment requirement.

Per RCW 28A.410.240 and RCW 28A.410.280, this report provides:

- PESB assessment policy for program admission and educator certification
- Annual summary of assessment data

## THE WASHINGTON EDUCATOR SKILLS TEST - BASIC (WEST-B)

PESB established the Washington Educator Skills Test Basic (WEST-B) as a candidate requirement for admission into approved teacher preparation programs in Washington. Individuals from out-of-state seeking a Washington State residency teaching certificate must also take the WEST-B.

The WEST-B, first administered in 2002, is intended to help identify candidates with the required level of basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing needed to perform successfully in a preparation program or as a teacher in a public school classroom (RCW 28A.410.220).

In April 2019, Governor Inslee signed [HB 1621](#) to help admit more candidates into the teaching profession by removing the requirement of meeting a specific score on the WEST-B exam. [Learn more about this change.](#)

## WASHINGTON EDUCATOR SKILLS TEST ENDORSEMENTS AND NATIONAL EVALUATION SERIES (WEST-E AND NES)

The purpose of the content knowledge assessment is to ensure teacher candidates have strong content knowledge in the endorsement area they intend to teach.

Educator candidates must complete content knowledge tests as a requirement to earn a residency teaching certificate (RCW 28A.410.220). Depending on the endorsement area, a candidate will either take the Washington Educator Skills Test –Endorsement (WEST-E) or the

National Evaluation Series (NES). Most WEST–E and NES tests consist of multiple-choice questions. The NES Elementary Education and the WEST-E Middle Level Humanities tests are each composed of two subtests. The WEST-E Designated World Languages test consists of multiple-choice questions. The Designated World Languages: Latin test consists of multiple-choice questions, a translation assignment, and an oral reading assignment.

At the November 2020 meeting, PESB approved a case-by-case exception process for the content knowledge assessments to ensure a culturally responsive and rigorous assessment system. A case-by-case exception process for the content knowledge assessment offers flexibility to offer a community-based review process with a diversity, equity, and inclusion framework. [Find out more about this policy change.](#)

## TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

In April 2021, the Washington Legislature approved [2SHB 1028](#), eliminating the edTPA as a state requirement for teacher certification. PESB has been working to ensure successful policy implementation through website resources, meetings, and a detailed FAQ for preparation programs and candidates. [Read our program FAQ to learn more.](#)

## ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

To view the full report and data of each testing requirement please view the following:

- [2020-21 WEST-B scores and benchmark report](#)
- [2020-21 WEST-E scores and pass rates report](#)
- [2020-21 NES scores and pass rates report](#)

## NOTES (DATA CAVEAT)

- The WEST-B, WEST-E, and NES data in this report were received directly from the testing vendor and reflect the tests taken by teacher candidates from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. The data is based on the test date.
- Note that the WEST-B requirement was changed from “passing” to “taking” in Spring 2019. After this policy change was implemented in Spring 2019, the number of candidates who received a score of 240, which is now used as a benchmark reference point, or higher were counted when calculating the number of candidates who met the WEST-B benchmark in this report to maintain consistency of reporting.
- Designations for gender and ethnicity are based on examinees’ responses to a question on the registration form that is “optional.” Because some examinees did not respond to this question, the sum of examinees in the reporting groups may

not equal the number of “Total Examinees.” Also, the demographic data provided in this report may be different from the demographic data provided by teacher preparation program providers.

- Data that have fewer than 10 examinees are suppressed in the reports. Extreme caution should be used in interpreting data for small numbers (<10) of examinees. The examinees for whom results are presented in this document may not reflect the same proportion of all the types and capabilities of examinees in the population who will take the tests in the future.
- Subgroups reflecting a zero percentage rate reflect a low number of test-takers, therefore calculations are not completed.