UPDATE: Educational Technology Assessments

2017

Authorizing legislation: RCW 28A.655.075
(http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.655.075)

Peter Tamayo
OSPI Chief Information Officer

Prepared by:

- **Dennis Small,** Educational Technology Director
  dennis.small@k12.wa.us | 360-725-6384

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, mathematics, health, English language arts, social studies, and the arts.

In the 2016–17 school year, school districts provided data on classroom-level use of educational technology assessments. This is the sixth 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:

- 41% of Washington school districts reported using an OSPI-developed assessment for educational technology (down slightly from 42% in 2015–16).

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

- 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. RCW 28A.655.075 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 2016–17 school year is the sixth year for which we have data.

Update Status

Of the 295 school districts, 121 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," "Constitutional Issues,"* and *"Causes of Conflict"*—more often than the other assessments.

Table 1: Educational Technology Assessments Reported Used in 2016-17

	Districts Reporting	Total # of Assessments	Most-Used Assessments
Elementary	105	23,373	You Decide (5,994)
Middle/Jr. High	100	17,190	Constitutional Issues (6,939)
High School	79	12,725	Causes of Conflict (4,492)

Districts began reporting the unduplicated count of students that were assessed at each level in 2014–15. The student counts reported in 2015–16 and 2016–17 are as follows:

Table 2: Number of Students Assessed in Educational Technology

Table Header	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High School
2015-16	36,430	30,095	24,176
2016-17	32,496	23,638	17,416

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 OSPI's Educational Technology site for more information.

Chris Reykdal • State Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building • P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200