

WEST-B basic skills assessment (HB 1621)

On April 24, Governor Inslee signed [HB 1621](#), a bill to help admit more candidates into the teaching profession by removing the requirement of meeting a specific score on the WEST-B (Washington Educator Skills Test - Basic) exam.

- 1. When can programs start admitting candidates who have taken but not passed a basic skills assessment?**
 - Programs may start admitting these candidates now. Candidates should contact their programs directly with questions relating to admission.
- 2. When can programs start recommending candidates for certification who have taken but not passed a basic skills assessment?**
 - Programs may start recommending these candidates now.
- 3. When can candidates who have taken but not passed a basic skills assessment start applying for certification through the OSPI certification office?**
 - These candidates may start applying for certification now. Candidates should contact the OSPI certification office at (360) 725-6400 or cert@k12.wa.us with their certification questions.
- 4. When can candidates who have taken but not passed a basic skills assessment start their student teaching?**
 - These candidates may start their student teaching now if they meet local program requirements for student teaching.
- 5. If a candidate took the WEST-B in the past, but did not pass, can they be admitted or apply for certification now?**
 - Yes. Basic skills assessment results do not expire.
- 6. Do candidates need to take all three sub-tests?**
 - Yes, candidates need to take sub-tests in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- 7. Does this new policy of taking the WEST-B apply for admission, student teaching, and certification?**
 - Yes, this new policy applies for admission, student teaching, and certification.
- 8. Does this policy apply to the SAT and ACT as WEST-B alternatives?**
 - Yes. Candidates need to take the ACT or SAT, but they do not need to meet a specific score.
- 9. How does this policy apply to out-of-state candidates?**

- These candidates need to take a basic skills assessment. Out of state candidates who are applying for a residency certificate and who are applying to Master's level teacher preparation programs may use the out-of-state basic skills equivalent tests listed here: <http://bit.ly/2Xlw9i2>. Candidates do not need to pass one of these tests. Candidates must take the equivalent in all three sub-tests.

10. How can programs use the results from a candidate's basic skills assessment?

- Programs may use the results of this assessment in a diagnostic and formative way to design and provide support to candidates.
- HB 1621 states: Programs may use results from the basic skills formative assessment of academic strengths and weakness in determining the candidate's readiness for the program.