

SBA Refusals

DAC Network Meeting, December 2015 WERA

(Facilitated by Brian Rick, brian.rick@bellingshamschools.org)

Communication

- Work with Communications to increase knowledge proactively and dispel myths.
- Know the anti-testing materials (like Opt Out Washington <http://optoutwashington.org/>) so you can back fill the void of facts and counter the false statements - give parents and kids accurate info to work with.
- Refusal forms - have parents sign a form, best in person so principal can have a conversation to share the value of the assessment data and clarify the consequences of not testing.
- How public and formal a process? Some districts publish materials about test refusals on their webpage to ensure families have accurate information; some districts keep it minimal and not accessible online so to not legitimize the process and help it spread.

High School

- Issue with not needed SBA for graduation - last year's ELA is this year's Math. Most kids will meet grad requirements with EOC and won't need to take the SBA Math in 11th grade.
- Statewide agreement by Washington's community and technical colleges and public four-year universities that 11th graders who score at a college-ready level will automatically place into college-level math and English language classes when they enroll in college.
<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2014.10.16.COP.SBAC.Release.pdf>
- Use the ERDC data on remedial college courses (<http://www.erdcddata.wa.gov/hsfb.aspx>) and tuition costs to estimate the amount of dollars spent to pay for college courses that are not credit-bearing. Students who take (and retake) to get to L3 can skip over the remedial courses in college.
- Exit exam - College/Career Ready gap kids - last year's Grade 10 who met grad req on the ELA but not Level 3 will need to take SBA ELA again for federal accountability. Not a lot of students in many cases - encourage counselors or trusted school admin to talk to kids individually to explain their situation and get a commitment to retest before the peer pressure to opt out kicks up again.
- Running Start:
 - 12-week window may allow you to schedule testing for RS kids that falls during the college break, so they don't miss class.
 - Consider scheduling special test sessions in the afternoon after most college classes are over.
 - Gil Mendoza sits on WSAC and working with college presidents on this issue. Colleges may find space and computers for testing on their campus. Likely we'd have to staff the testing. Talk to your local college and make sure that person has talked to their president about this shared challenge.

High School (continued)

- Retakes - one school was not offering November retakes to students. This could be a civil rights violation and instigate a federal investigation from the Office of Civil Rights. Schools cannot deny students access to tests that are necessary for graduation requirements.
- Gil said that WA Council of Presidents is also considering making participation in federal accountability testing a condition of enrollment in college. Nothing firm yet, but good to toss out there as a possibility when talking to families and kids.
- Gil said that WA legislators have considered making participation in federal accountability testing a graduation requirement. Nothing firm yet, but also may be worth tossing out there as a possibility when talking to families and kids.

News from Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

- Celebrating the move of Classroom Activities from required to optional.
- Move to the 12-week window creates flexibility in scheduling that may alleviate any local pressure points.
- SBAC approved the member state's use of SBA at grade 10. Now for WA state to determine if we do that for Math and if we can afford it.

School Staff

- Make sure teachers have access to SBA data and information to make the most of the testing. Employees who encourage test refusals (or refuse to administer) put their certificates at risk. Office of Professional Practice may need to be involved. Reprimands stay on the cert's record for fifty years.

ESSA

- OSPI will need to rewrite our state workbook for the new ESSA, addressing assessment and will be considering the issue of participation for WA students.