

## **From our website: Second Grade Reading Assessment**

<http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/Assessment/other.aspx>

*The Second Grade Reading Assessment Law ([RCW.28A.300.320](#)) mandates that every student in the state of Washington be assessed at the beginning of the second grade using a grade-level equivalent oral reading passage. Students whose performance is found to be "substantially below grade level" must be accorded an intervention plan that involves the student, parents, and school. Assessing reading comprehension is optional, but strongly recommended. Scores are not reported to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) but should be used by the teacher, school, and district to provide support for students who need help.*

*OSPI now uses the [Universal Screening Tools Chart](#) from the National Center for Response to Intervention (NCRTI) as a reference for selecting assessments. The current chart reflects results from four years of reviews. This list provides up-to-date information on assessments that are sent to the center for the quality of rating in addition to being valid, reliable and normed. The quality of rating varies among those reviewed. It is recommended that consumers review the assessment list and choose an assessment that meets the requirements and technical rigor of RCW 28A.300.320. In addition to the technical ratings, the chart provides information on implementation requirements for each assessment.*

*Teachers should administer the chosen assessment using publishers' directions. The administration process and results will ensure that teachers, parents/guardians, and students will receive highly focused and useful information for increasing student achievement in reading.*

### **Agency stance for the technical change in upcoming legislative session (last year's testimony):**

In 1999, RCW 28A.300.310 was enacted to ensure that all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were assessed on their literacy development, to provide educators and parents with information to support their students progression as readers. In 2010, WA State adopted a new set of learning standards with rollout to districts in 2012, these standards highlighted the importance of comprehension—the ability to understand what one is reading whether it be in English Language Arts, Science or Social Studies.

Therefore OSPI is recommending that the 1999 RCW be updated to reflect the current needs of our state:

- By removing the test administration language, we will be providing districts and schools the autonomy to administer the reading assessment as intended by the publisher criteria. Therefore enhancing the fidelity of the assessment administration and capturing more accurate information about a student's literacy development.
- By adding the focus of comprehension, the law will be aligned to WA State Learning Standards. And most importantly this focus will provide Washington students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of what they are reading and how their development expands over the course of a year.