



## Washington State Association of School Psychologists

### WSASP Guidance for Locally Determined Assessments

Carrie Suchy, Ed.S., NCSP, *WSASP Government and Public Relations Co-Chair*

Steve Hirsch, Ph.D., NCSP, *WSASP Professional Development Chair*

Several high school school psychologists have contacted WSASP with questions pertaining specifically to the Locally Determined Assessment (LDA) process during the COVID-19 school closure. This addendum to the [WSASP COVID-19 Closure Guidance Document](#) is intended to address this specific issue.

OSPI has released [updated guidance](#) (See Tips from the Special Education Division) for the LDA as of April 20th. This guidance adds two new pieces of information to the existing information on the LDA:

- In-person assessments are not to be completed during the school facility closures. Information about whether a [LDA](#) can be administered remotely will be found in the test publisher's protocols and will be unique to each assessment.
- If the student has not yet met the pathway or CIA requirement, they may be eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal (waiver). For more information, visit the OSPI [Expedited Assessment Appeals Waiver](#) page or email [graduation.pathways.k12.wa.us](mailto:graduation.pathways.k12.wa.us).

It has come to WSASP's attention that districts may be pressuring school psychologists to conduct these assessments remotely, due to concerns that relatively large numbers of students may not be able to access the waiver. **WSASP would like to make very clear that the guidance in the standardized testing section of the [WSASP COVID19 Closure Guidance Document](#) applies to the use of any and all face-to-face, individually administered standardized testing.** Though much of that section specifically addresses cognitive testing, the guidance applies equally to academic testing, including all the concerns with this practice.

One primary concern for virtual testing at this time for many school psychologists is a lack of appropriate training and materials. The added guidance from OSPI further emphasizes that remote administration is based on publisher protocol and may be unique to each case. This provides bolstered support for school psychologists who are not appropriately trained, or provided with appropriate materials to refuse virtual administration outside of publisher recommendations.

The second piece of added information from OSPI is also important to consider. OSPI reiterates that there are multiple pathways to graduation for seniors graduating this year. xfPassing the SBA is one, passing an LDA is another, and completing a sequence of CTE courses is a third option. In addition to those pathways, this year's graduates have additional options. In an [article detailing graduation pathways](#) published in the April 27th edition of the WSASP Prior Written



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Notice e-newsletter, the following options are listed as alternatives using an “expedited appeals waiver”:

- Successful Completion of a College Level Class (i.e. running start course in Eng. 101 and/or math 101)
- Admission to a Higher Education Institution or Career Preparation Program (Note this applies to any post high school college or technical program and requires acceptance to a program, not attendance.)
- Award of a Scholarship for Higher Education
- Enlistment in a Branch of the Military
- Other – proof a student demonstrated the “necessary skills and knowledge” through a pathway other than the options listed above.

WSASP encourages teams to thoughtfully consider these options, as well as the other pathways described in the aforementioned article in considering how to best serve our students.

OSPI has given no indication of the volume of these waivers being somehow limited, and are clearly working hard to ensure our seniors graduate. School psychologists must maintain the ethical responsibility to do what is best for our students, within the scope of our practice. If a school psychologist does not have the training or tools available to complete virtual assessment, then it should not be attempted, even, or especially, during a crisis. WSASP, NASP, and OSPI are consistent in this guidance.

In closing, WSASP encourages school psychologists and school teams to be flexible, collaborative, and thoughtful about supporting individual student needs during this time. If you have any questions that were not addressed through this document, [please submit your question using this form](#). Someone from WSASP’s response team will respond within 24 hours. Questions and responses will be posted in the Prior Written Notice e-newsletter.