

The Instruction Commission of Washington State Community and Technical Colleges recognize that during remote operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students in Basic Education for Adults (BEA) were able to demonstrate basic education needs, and resulting measurable learning gains, in alternative ways instead of the CASAS test. We recommend that Community and Technical Colleges be allowed to pilot alternative assessments of student need and learning gains. We have seen a number of colleges and universities in-state and nationwide moving away from standardized testing to place students into college-level classes. Retaining a high stakes test for one of our most at-risk populations is clearly inequitable. As our system has focused on ending systemic racism and discrimination, we advocate for the exploration of alternative means of measuring student learning to treat BEA students as we do other students at our colleges.