



The Washington State  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

# Basic Education Certification Report

Washington State Board of Education  
February 15, 2023



# Basic Education Statutory Foundations

- **RCW 28A. 150. 220**

**Basic education – Minimum instructional requirements – Program accessibility – Rules.**

RCW 28A. 150. 220 (7) states that:

"the state board of education shall adopt rules to implement and ensure compliance with the program requirements imposed by this section"

- **RCW 28A. 150. 250**

**Annual basic education allocation – Full funding – Withholding of funds for noncompliance.**

RCW 28A. 150. 250 (3)(a) states that:

"If a school district's basic education program fails to meet the basic education requirements, ... the state board of education may recommend to the superintendent of public instruction that the superintendent withhold state funds in whole or in part for the basic education allocation until program compliance is assured."

- **WAC 180-16-195**

**Annual reporting and review process.**

In the event a school district has not complied with the Basic Education law, a **certificate of noncompliance** must be issued in accordance with **WAC 180-16-195 (3)(d)** which states that:

"...upon the certification of noncompliance of a school district, state board of education staff shall notify the superintendent of public instruction and the school district of a certification of noncompliance immediately after the board meeting at which certification occurred."



# Basic Education Report

- A summary of the **annual basic education certification process and results.**
- A summary of **notable findings**, and the communication process among the Board, school districts, and LEAs, while pursuing the annual certification of basic education compliance.
- Articulation of **possible improvements** for 2023-24 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance and District Survey collection process.



# Stages of the Annual Basic Education Certification Process and Results:

- The survey was opened on **May 18, 2022**, and closed on **October 20, 2022**.
- The data in this report reflects the **295** regular school districts that have provided responses to the survey prompts.
- Of the 295 regular school districts, **240** were certified to be in compliance with the provision of basic education, while **55** received conditional certification due to one or more outstanding issues.
- School districts receiving conditional certification were notified of the concerns and provided assurance to the SBE that the issues would be resolved within a specific timeframe.

# Certification Process: Four Basic Education Compliance Criteria



Four criteria establish the recommendation of compliance/noncompliance:

- **Mandated criteria:** shows the elements that **must be present** within the education program in every school district and LEA prior to a recommendation for certification of compliance.
- **Required criteria:** describes elements which have an **explicit basic education or compulsory education reference** in statute, and the presence (or not) of the element factors into compliance recommendation.
- **Notification criteria:** describes elements that are related to basic education but appear elsewhere in the statute and **do not have an explicit basic education reference**. These do not factor into the compliance recommendation and would result in a notification to the district.
- **Encouraged criteria:** describes elements that are **encouraged** in the statute, and these do not factor into compliance recommendation.



## 2022-2023 Basic Education Compliance Matrix

*What is mandatory, required, and encouraged at Washington State school districts*

Mandatory	Required (Current school year factors into compliance recommendation)	Notification (In law, does NOT factor into compliance recommendation)	Encouraged (encouraged in law and does NOT factor into compliance recommendation)
Minimum 180-Day School Year	AIDS Prevention Education Program	Academic Acceleration Policy	Ethnic studies
Grades K-12 Minimum Instructional Hours	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	Comprehensive Sexual Health Education	History of civil rights
High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)	Computer Science Learning Science and Course	Continuity of Operations Plan	Holocaust history
Credit and subject area graduation requirements	Conservation, natural resources, and environment learning standards	Electronic HSBP Platform	Seal of biliteracy
Graduation pathway option(s)	Disability history month	Financial Ed Curriculum	
	Financial Aid Advising Day	Credit Policy for Students Released from Institutional Education Facilities.	
	Observance of Veteran’s Day	Since Time Immemorial Curriculum	
	Social-emotional Learning Standards	Starting grade for the HSBP	
	Stand-Alone Civics Course (class of 2024)		
	Temperance and Good Citizenship Day/Voter registration		
	US and WA Constitutions		



# Basic Education Compliance Examples

- If a school district establishes **compliance** with the **mandatory and required**, but only with **some notification criteria**, it is recommended for a **full certification**, and the district will be notified of the potential issues with the remaining requirements.
- If a school district establishes **compliance** with the **mandatory** category and with **several (but not all) elements** of the **required** and the notification elements, it is recommended for a **conditional certification**, so long as the school district or LEA provides assurance of implementation of the missing basic education element(s) later in the school year.
- If a school district is **non-responsive, missing mandatory elements**, or **does not have a plan** for implementation of required elements, they will be recommended for **certification as non-compliant**.



# Protocol of Communication with School Districts and LEAs

- A notice of launch on **May 18, 2022**.
- Confirmation email and PDF of responses highlighting possible issues immediately after submission
- Instructions to follow a step-by-step process to correct errors or to contact SBE.
- Periodic notifications regarding updated certification status.
- One-on-one communication with school districts to resolve issues
- A final notice is sent to the superintendent or LEA leader regarding a recommendation of certification of compliance.

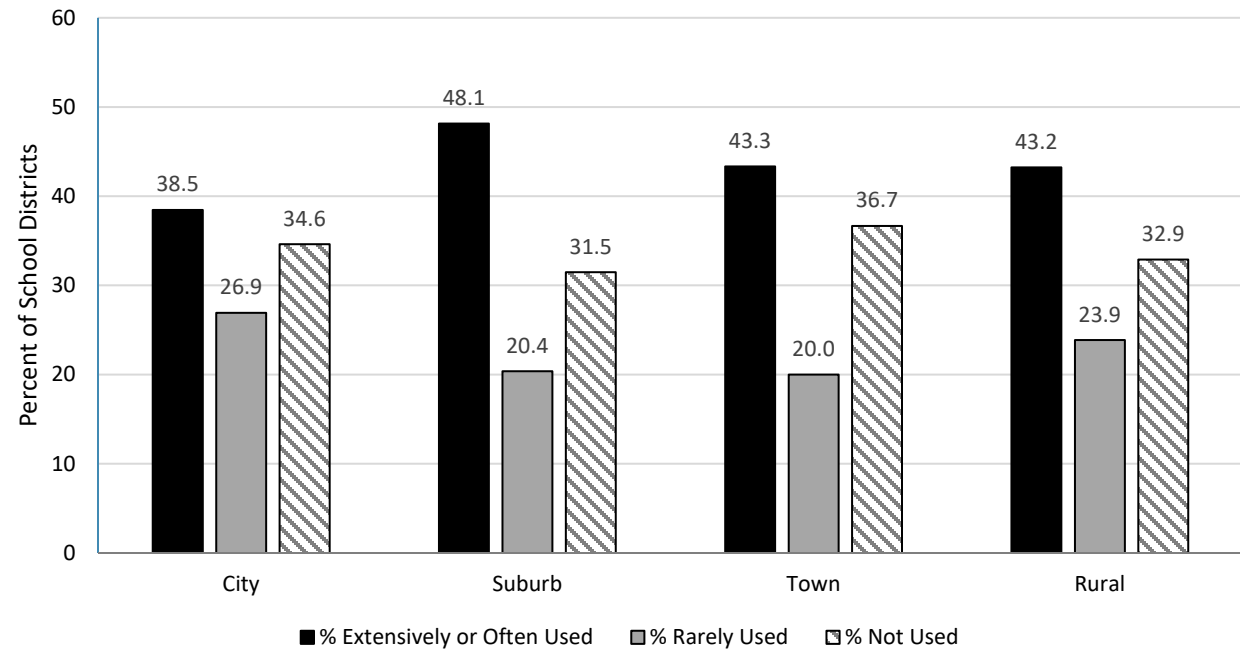




# Notable Findings: The Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol (WISSP)

Approximately one-third of districts do not use and/or have not heard of the protocol.

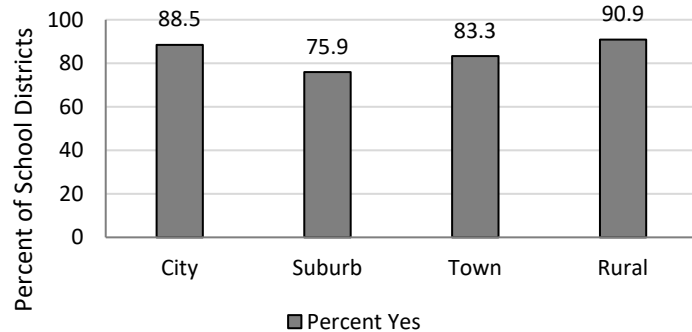
Washington Integrated Student Support Protocol (WISSP) Usage by School District Setting



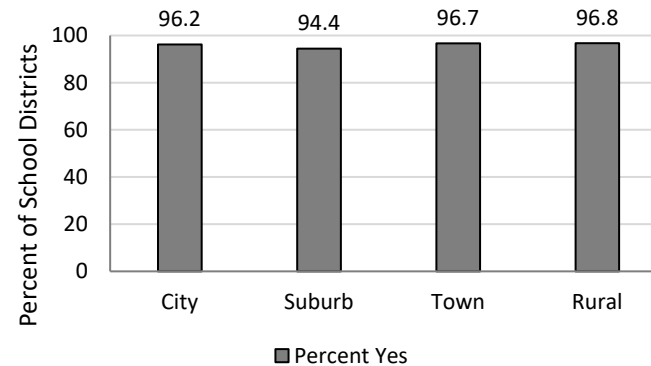
# Notable Findings: Elementary Science Instruction

School districts develop and implement elementary science instructional hours policy in grades K-5 at much lower rates, despite the fact that they have allocated time for science instruction in their master schedules, and that teachers have access to a science curriculum aligned to state standards at very high rates.

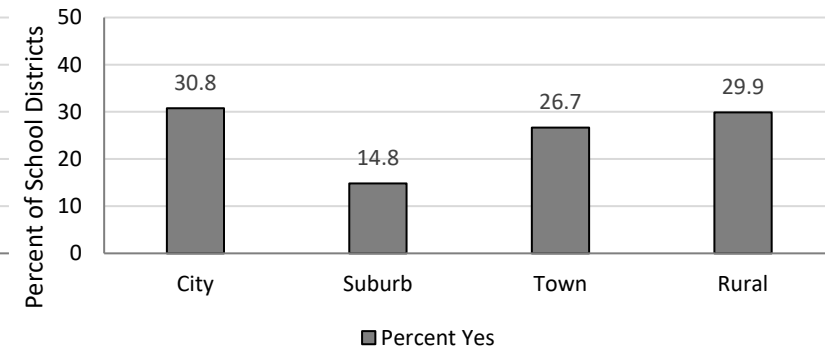
Do the elementary schools [in your school district] allocate specific time for science instruction in their master schedule?



All elementary teachers have access to a science curriculum aligned to state standards.

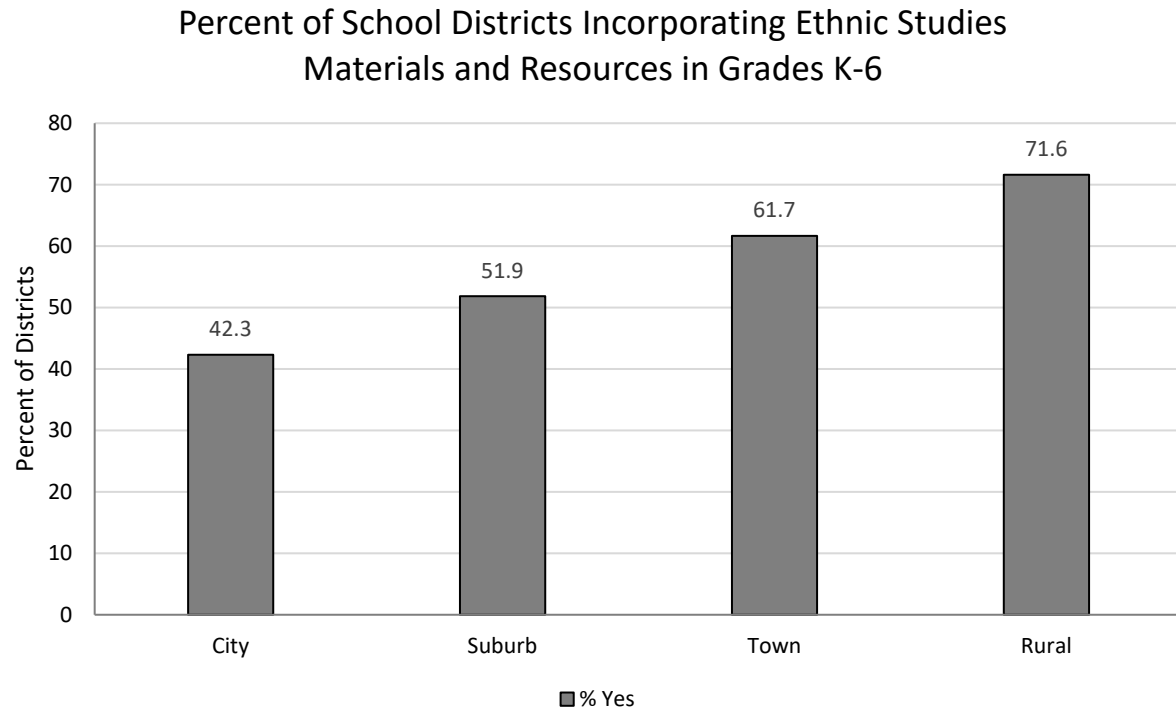


The district has a policy requiring a certain number of instructional minutes for science in grades K-5.



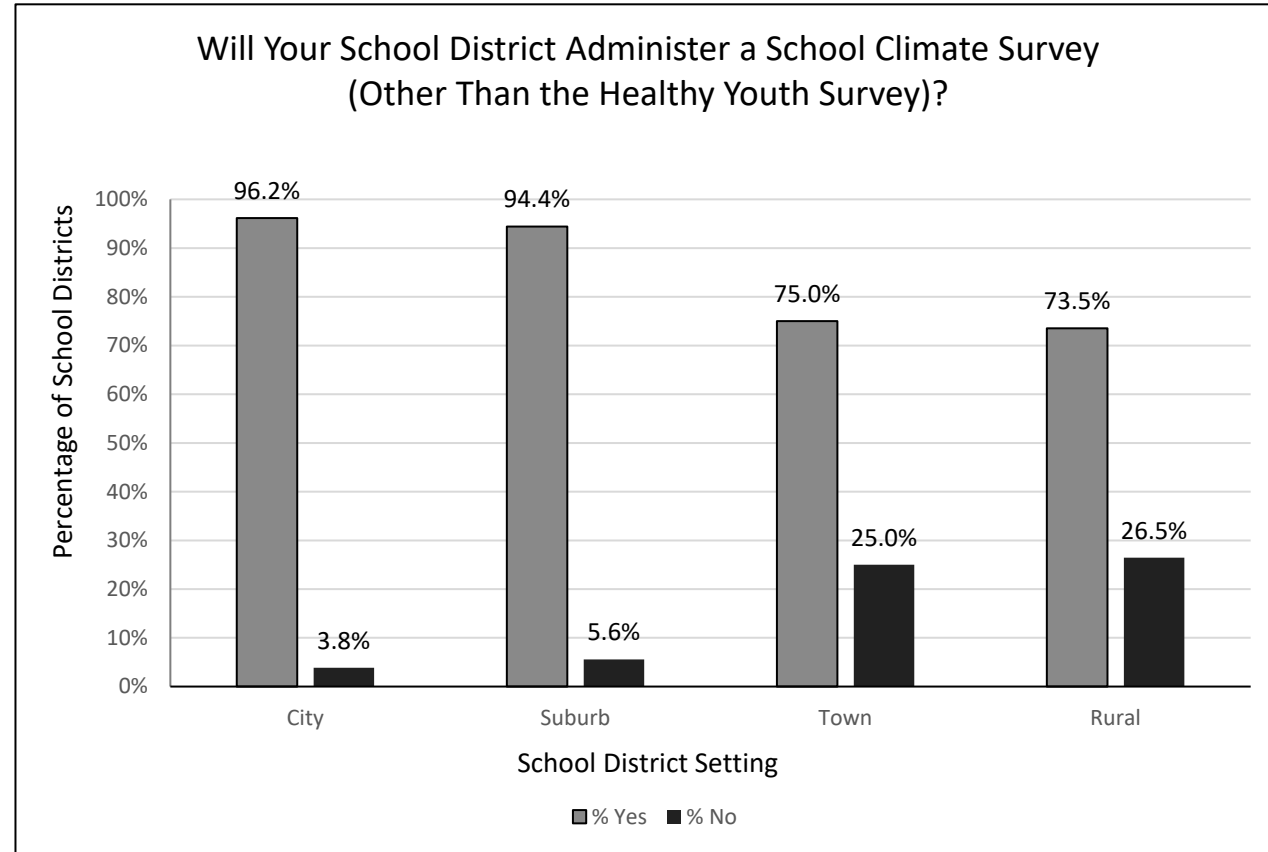
# Notable Findings: Ethnic Studies

School districts in city and suburb settings incorporate ethnic studies materials and resources into K-6 learning materials at rates lower than school districts in town and remote settings.



# Notable Findings: Climate Survey

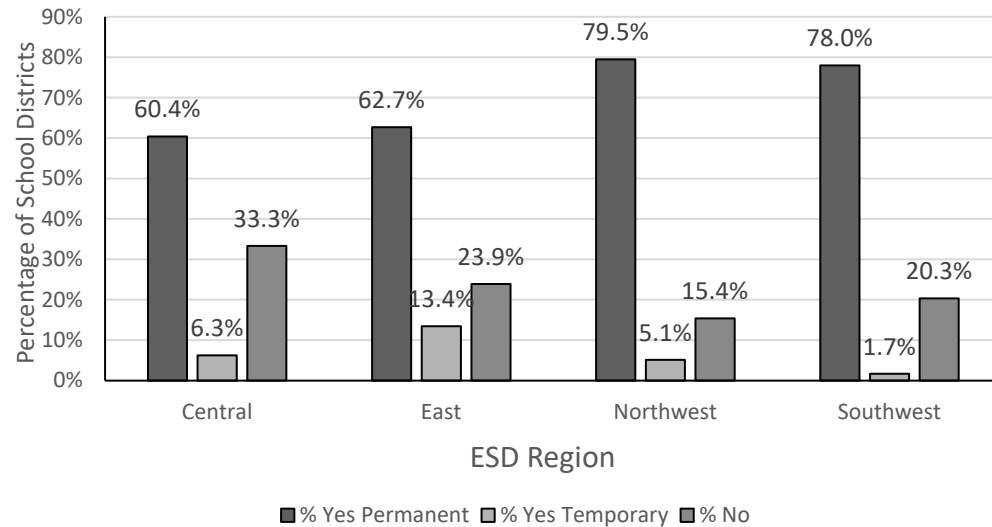
Very small and small districts in rural and town settings are less likely to administer a climate survey.



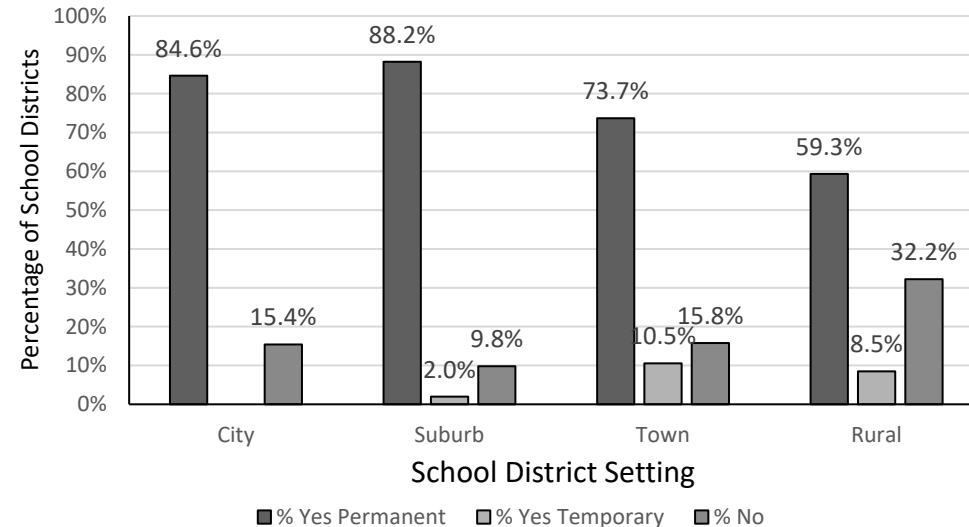
# Notable Findings: Mastery-based Learning Permanent Policy

- Districts in rural and town settings are less likely to have a permanent MBL policy.
- ESDs 112, 123, and 121 are at a rate of >80%.
- ESDs 101 and 105 are at a rate of <60%.

Does Your School District Have a Written Policy to Award Mastery/Competency-Based Credit?



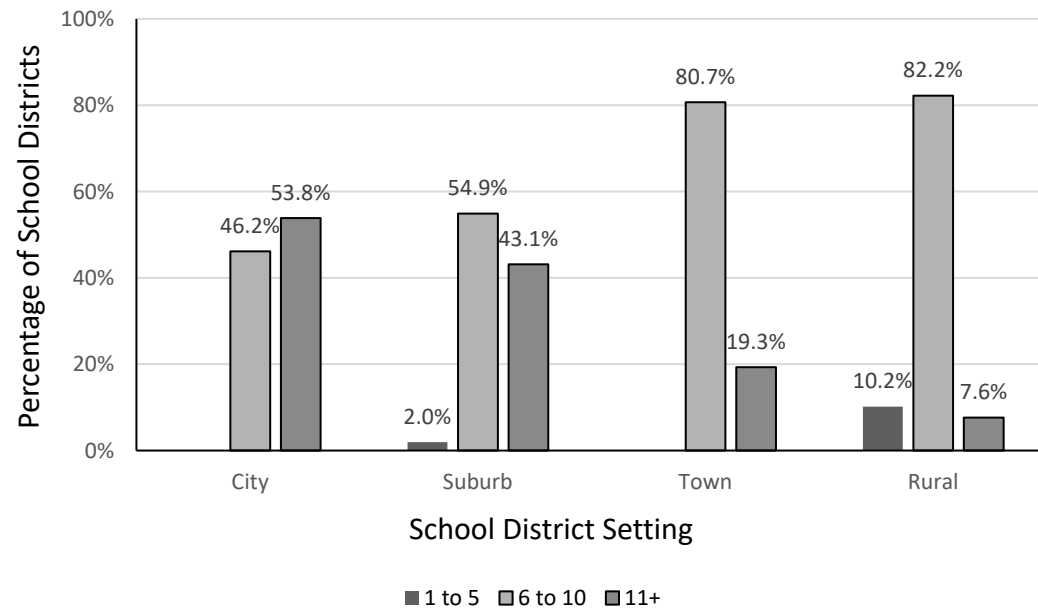
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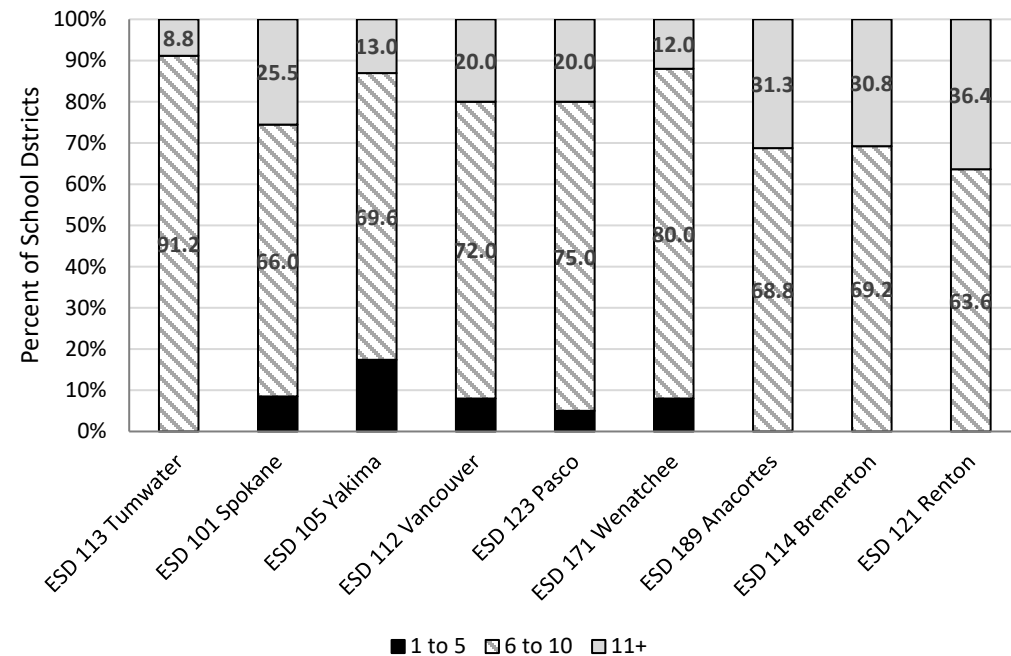
# Notable Findings: Number of Graduation Pathways Offered

Differences by Educational Services District (ESD), school district setting, and school district enrollment

Graduation Pathway Options Available to Students in Your School District for the Class of 2022



Number of Pathways Offered by a School District by Educational Service District (ESD)





# Notable Findings: Process of Communication with School Districts

SBE staff received **feedback** from school district administrators:

- **Too many prompts:** the process is complicated, requiring dedicated time and effort.
- **New superintendents and administrative staff:** it was difficult to gather the required information which provided them with the opportunity to quickly learn about their new school district.
- **New superintendents:** unaware of new offerings that should have been implemented.
- **Additional information** on specific Basic Education Matrix elements and **discussions** of these elements.
- **No information on the certification procedure:** school district representatives were unaware of the certification procedure in general and expressed concern over conditional certification assuming that they may lose federal and state financing based on provisions of RCW 28A.150.250.
- **New reporting platform** over the old EDS platform: the new platform seemed easy for use, especially the "Save and Continue Later" functionality.
- **Questions** regarding the specific wording for some questions (e.g., 'have a policy for..' vs. 'have a procedure to...'). These will be revised to provide better clarity for the 2023-24 collection.
- **Timeline:** absence of clarity on the prompts asking about the upcoming school year, not the current school year. Prompts and instructions will be revised to make this clearer for the 2023-24 collection.



# Possible Improvements

Based on the feedback received, the SBE staff are updating:

- **The Basic Education webpage**, to more clearly describe the procedure for annual basic education certification. The update will allow school district representatives to have access to the most relevant information on annual reporting and review process codified in WAC 180-16-195.
- **The Basic Education Matrix**, to be uploaded onto the webpage as well. Distributing the matrix will allow school district administrators to have access to a list of all the educational offerings that a school district must provide in order to the basic education law.
- **The 2023-24 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance and District Survey** will be open in May of 2023.





**Questions?**

**Comments?**

# Contact Information

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