

Subj: **NVC 052813 Washington State's New Competency-Based Diploma**
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Washington State's New Competency-Based Diploma

Jon Kerr (WA) mentioned Washington's new competency-based diploma in the state directors meeting last week. I followed for details and here is his response. I thought you might be interested.

Our HS21+ is a truly competency-based diploma. This new high school completion initiative allows students 21 and older to complete a competency-based high school diploma as the culmination of their ABE/ESL experience. They are then able to move on to financial aid if eligible and transition to college to fulfill their goals of obtaining a family sustaining career. Washington statute already allows community colleges to award high school diplomas and determine which courses and/or educational experiences of the student satisfy Washington State graduation requirements. Test scores are an accepted "educational experience." Each college has the authority to determine what criteria meet the state graduation requirements. So, some colleges are considering college placement tests, SAT, CASAS, etc. and determining what scores meet the competency level.

Upon intake students go through a transcript analysis to determine what competencies have already been met by past K-12 and/or college courses. Based on that transcript review an educational plan is developed. Then some competencies may be met by test scores, portfolio work, and/or contextualized ABE courses. I hope this helps.--Jon

Jon's email address is jkerr@sbctc.edu in case you would like to follow up.

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Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

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