

## STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Table I

### Authorization and Purposes of State Assessment Program

As of 1985, state legislatures had authorized state assessment programs in 19 states. In three of these states state education agency authorization preceded the legislative mandate. The state education agency was the sole authorizing agency in three additional states. Three more states reported authorization without specifying whether it was legislative, state education agency, or some other source. In at least four states the state board of education was named as the authorizing body.

The movement to introduce or to improve state assessment programs has gained momentum recently. Between 1983 and 1985, six states (Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Idaho, and South Dakota) authorized new programs, and 19 additional states introduced major changes in existing programs.

As of summer 1985, 13 states reported they had no state assessment program. Not only do the authorizing bodies differ among states, but the stated purposes for which assessment programs were established differ from state to state and reflect little common content across states. The Connecticut program, for example, was authorized by the state board of education as a vehicle by which it could carry out its legislative responsibility for "determining the efficiency and efficacy of education programs." This program, first implemented in 1971, was changed in 1985 using a testing program designed to reflect mastery of a uniform curriculum.

In most states, laws providing for the establishment of state assessment programs specify the type of students to be tested and areas to be measured but often do not define the state's purposes for implementing the programs. Some do specify the purposes of state assessment. Indiana states its program is in place to identify students needing remediation so the state can allocate funds to assist schools having such students. Kentucky's program is designed to provide diagnostic and analytical information for use

in improving curricula at local levels. Maryland collects normative data at the school, district and state levels to insure accountability. Minnesota uses state assessment data in local district planning and evaluating, and in state education agency planning, evaluating and reporting to the state legislature. Mississippi reports it uses state assessment data for decision making in education generally. South Carolina says the state assessment program provides data school advisory councils use in developing improvement plans. Louisiana's program provides state, district and schools with data useful in the diagnosis of educational needs of individual students. South Dakota states the purpose of its program is to fulfill the need for information indicating the educational status of the state.

| State                    | Leg            | Aut   | by: Other (name) | Latent major ch                                       | Wording, SEA rules, regulations   | Comments   |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|---|---|--|
| Alabama (A)              | N              | N     | .B. E.           |   |   |  |
| Alaska (A)               | Legis. ve tenl | N     | .. B.E.          | 1985  |   |  |
| Arizona (A)              | Y              | N     | N                | 1985 : mting Ianged about e~ tar; rw lriab l( 'e addd | Jot stated.   |  |
| Mississippi (A)          | Y              | N     | u                | 1985-E  | Hill adm&ster a standardize schievemantest.   |  |
| California (A)           | Y              | N     | N                | 1984-8  | State Board required :0 uniformly test pupils annually in reading, languaq arts and math.   |  |
| Colorado No stat program |                |       |                  |   | Year #1 of pilot:3,6,9,11 will be tested using standardized tests; all regular students, excluding spec-al ed. Year #2 of pilot-k at instruments with samples | pilot program began U~y 1, 1985                              |
| Connecticut (A)          | N              | N     | S.B .E,          | 1984-85 Connect i cut Mastery Program                 | State Board of Educat-on shall determine the efficiency and efficacy education program.   | astery Program ls new eparate program, start September 1985. |
| (A) 't.ato mandate       | st             | R) kc | (If) t i(        | St. (C)   | -callyseLocted/constructed  | ed(s) .  |

SawE : Data @mpilad for the Office of ~chnology Assecoent by Regional Educational LakOrato~, 1985

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| State                       | Authorized by: |              |                 | Year<br>auth-<br>orized   | Year<br>imple-<br>mented | Year<br>latest<br>major<br>changes | Wording, SEA<br>rules, regulations   | Comments   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
|                             | Legis          | SEA<br>Admin | Other<br>(name) |                           |                          |                                    |  |  |
| Delaware (A)                | Y              | N            | N               | 1978                      | 1978                     | 1985                               | they put out manuals for<br>who, when; not regulations.  |  |
| District of<br>Columbia (A) | Y              | N            | N               | NR                        | 1971                     |                                    | Board will approve superin-<br>tendent testing program<br>annually for criterion-<br>referenced test and norm-<br>referenced test.   |  |
| Florida (a)                 |                |              |                 |                           |                          |                                    |  | Combined with Hi<br>Competency under<br>student Assessment<br>(SSAT 1 & 2); no<br>comment under Mi<br>Competency |
| Georgia (A)                 |                | N            | S.B.E.          | NA                        | 1971                     | 1985                               | Do not have.   |  |
| Hawaii (A)                  |                | Y            | N               | id<br>60's                | Mid<br>60's              | 1981                               | Department will conduct<br>assessment in achievement,<br>aptitude and competency<br>areas.   |  |
| Idaho                       |                | N            | S.B.E.          | 1984                      | 1905                     | April,<br>1985                     | NA   |  |
| Illinois (A)                | NA             | NA           | NA              | None                      | 1976                     | 1985                               | Will be after July 1, 1985.  |  |
| Indiana (A)                 | 3/2/84         | 1976         | N               | 3/2/84<br>Legis-<br>lated | 1978                     | 1984                               | Competency testing and<br>remediation program to<br>identify lowest percentage<br>of students for remediation<br>1978 Board ruling required<br>districts to report<br>achievement results to Board | 1984 appropriate<br>for lowest 15 pe<br>of third grade<br>population.<br>1978 program had<br>funds.              |

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| State                   | Assessment      | Authorized by |              | Year authorized            | Year implemented                  | Year latest major changes | Wording, SEA rules, regulations  | Comments                                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
|                         |                 | SEA Admin.    | Other (name) |                            |                                   |                           |  |  |
| Iowa - No state program | 1985 eqs-?ltior | N             | N            | 1985 Models b e develop 1. | possible program to begin in 1987 |                           | State Board of Education in conjunction with state education agency will develop models for procedures for testing; models for higher order thinking skills and critical thinking skills at ,7,10,11 by January 1987.  | 'cry loose, nothing undated.             |
| Kansas (A)              | Y               | N             | N            | 1979                       | 1981                              |                           | Designed to determine the level of minimum competence of students in grades 2,4,6, & 10. Focus of tests in grades 2,4,6 to determine students' competence in reading and math. Students in grades & 10 are also tested in reading and math but "to assess their ability to function competently in adult society." |  |
| Kentucky (A)            | Y               | N             | N            | 1978                       | 1979                              | 1984                      | To provide diagnostic and analytic information to be used to improve curriculum at local level   |  |
| Louisiana (A)           | Y               | N             | N            | 1976                       | 1978                              | None                      | to provide state, districts and school-level data for diagnostic information on students.  |  |
| Maine (A)               | Y               | N             | N            | 1976                       | 1976                              | 1984                      | Requires program to assess on a regular basis 4,8,11, public elementary and secondary schools approved for tuition purposes.   | 1976 program assessed fourth grade only. |
| Maryland (A)            | Y               | N             | N            | 1971                       | 1971                              |                           | For purposes of accountability to the State Board of Education; will collect normative data at school, district and state levels.  |  |

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|---|-------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|   |       | SEA<br>admin. | Other<br>(name) |                         |                          |                                    |   |                               |
| Massachusetts - No<br>state program<br>(Bill currently<br>in legislature) |       |               |                 |                         |                          |                                    |   |                               |
| Michigan (A)  | 1970  | 1969          | N               | 1969                    | 1969                     | 1979                               | established that State Board of Education shall conduct annual assessment of 4 & 7 grades in math, language and as they deem appropriate.   | Law did not specify purposes. |
| Minnesota (A)   | 1976  | 1970          | N               | 1970                    | 1970                     | 1904-85                            | Planning, ● valuating and ● porting legislation: provides for local control of state assessment (optional item bank; technical assistance and mastery in communication and math. Districts need to plan and evaluate. |                               |
| Mississippi A)  | Y     | N             | N               | 1982                    | 1984                     |                                    | State program purposes for testing are for decisionmaking.  |                               |
| Missouri (A)  | Y     | N             | N               | 1975                    | 1975                     | 1985                               | 1975 was a voluntary program requiring periodic assessment in English, reading, social studies, science, language arts, civics , and math using NAEP model. 1985 program mandated assessment by state.                |                               |
| Montana - No state<br>program   |       |               |                 |                         |                          |                                    |   |                               |
| Nebraska - No state<br>program  |       |               |                 |                         |                          |                                    |   |                               |

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| State                                | Authorized by |               |                | Year<br>auth-<br>rized | Year<br>imple-<br>mented                                      | Year<br>latest<br>major<br>changes | Wording, SEA<br>rules, regulations   | comments  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                      |               | SEA<br>admin. | Other<br>name) |                        |   |                                    |  |   |
| ! Nevada - No state<br>program       |               |               |                |                        |   |                                    |  |   |
| New Hampshire -<br>No state program  |               |               |                |                        |   |                                    |  | Has no state assessment.<br>In 1978 and 1980 they<br>sampled about 6,000<br>students in 5-10 district<br>in grades 5,8, and 11.   |
| New Jersey - No<br>state program     |               |               |                |                        |   |                                    |  |   |
| New Mexico (A)                       | N             | N             | S.B.E.         | 1972                   | 1972  | 1981                               | Provide for the evaluation<br>of student performance,<br>both during and upon<br>completion of the program.  |   |
| New York (A)                         | NA            | NA            | NA             | NA                     | Regents<br>exam:<br>1978<br>PEP test<br>1965<br>Comp:<br>1979 | NA                                 | Purpose not explicitly<br>tated--just stipulates what<br>will be tested: Regents<br>exam program tests<br>approximately 1 million<br>students in grades 9-12:<br>here are 22 different<br>subject exams taken over<br>our years. | major Changes:<br><u>in tests themselves</u><br># different subjects<br>decreased over years,<br>original tests were ess<br>only, now use objective<br>6 essay questions.<br><u>methods of development</u><br>originally by SEA staff<br>now classroom teachers<br>develop tests<br><u>amount of local latitude</u><br>• originally run from SEA<br>now LEA's do most of th<br>scoring, recordkeeping<br>& issue regents diploma<br>now a cooperative progr<br>between SEA & LEA's. |
| North Carolina (A)                   | 1977          | N             | N              | 1977                   | 1977-78   | 1983                               | NA   |   |
| North Dakota (C)<br>No state program |               |               |                |                        |   |                                    |  | NDL   |

NDL: There is no mandated state-wide assessment in North Dakota. Each fall, LEA's test grades 3,5,7,9 and 11 at their option. About 66 percent of the students are tested. Most use SRA.

State Education Department is being reorganized. A new director with an emphasis in testing and curriculum development is coming in. Changes may occur then.

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|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                | SEA<br>admin. | SEA<br>other | SEA<br>other |                        |   |                                    |   |  |
| Ohio - No state<br>program     |               |              |              |                        |   |                                    |   | OH1<br>OH2   |
| Oklahoma - No<br>state program |               |              |              |                        |   |                                    |   |  |
| Oregon (B)                     | Y             | N            | N            | 1974                   | 1974                                      |                                    | Not specified in state law.   |  |
| Pennsylvania(A)                | NA            | NA           | N            | 1965*                  | 1970<br>as a<br>service<br>to<br>district | 1985                               | Originally had been to build curriculum around goals and to decide direction of lot based on subject matter; critics said too general, wanted pacificity; effective .985-86 change to satisfy critics of SEA administration | Field testing 1965-67 program; 1967-69' to develop instruments.                                |
| Rhode Island(A)                | Y             | N            | N            | 1966                   | 1975                                      | 1985                               | SEA shall conduct achievement and aptitude testing in a inform testing program.   | 1985-back to very pu tested as before 1975 July 1985-3,6,8,10 to be tested across subj tested. |
| South Carolina (A)             | 1977          | 1971         | N            | 1971                   | 1971                                      | 1977                               | 1977 Education & Finance Act School advisory councils shall conduct needs assessment and school improvement programs and use state testing data for improvement plans.  |  |
| South Dakota (A)               | N             | N            | S.B.E.       | 1984                   | 1985                                      |                                    | Intention is to get an indication of educational status of State.   | Unable to get exact wording of policy.   |
| Tennessee                      | Not           | available    | " f o r      | view                   |   |                                    |   |  |
| Texas - No state<br>program    |               |              |              |                        |   |                                    |   |  |
| Utah (A)                       | N             | N            | S.B.E.       | 1975                   | 1975                                      | 1984                               | NR  |  |

OH1: Ohio presently requires LEA's 3 test 1-12 in reading, math and writing each year. This began in 1983 from a State Board decision of 1982. Test results are used primarily for local curriculum development. No data are given to the State. The SEA does provide technical assistance in administration and interpretation.

Two million students are tested at a cost of \$5,000,000--all of which is appropriated by the legislature to go directly to the districts. Of that, \$2,000,000 was spent to buy new tests this year.

Each year, there is a move in the legislature to begin collecting state-wide data. Chances look better each year, but it has yet to pass.

OH2: Competency Based Education Program requires continuous monitoring of student progress K-12 which can be construed as a state testing program. In addition, each district is required to give the three tests described in footnote OH4.



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|                        |               | SEA admin. | Other (name)  |                 |                  |                           |  |  |
| Alaska - State program |               |            |               |                 |                  |                           |  |  |
| Arizona (A)            | Y             | N          | N             | 1950            | 1950             | 1972                      | From time to time, State Board of Education should administer tests to measure progress of students in schools (later law specified norm-referenced tests) . |  |
| Washington (A)         | Y             | N          | N             | 1976            | 1976             | 1985                      | Superintendent (SPI) shall conduct basic skills assessment with assistance of local districts.   |  |
| West Virginia (A)      | Y             | N          | N             | 1962            | 1962             | 1985                      | NR   | Respondent is fairly new to the department, so he was not clear on historical information; |
| Wisconsin              | Not           | available  | for interview | .View.          |                  |                           |  |  |
| Wyoming (B)            | N             | Y          | N             | NA              | 1984             |                           | Voluntary program; no law. Funds are allocated by legislature.   |  |