

ANALYSIS OF OTA SURVEY OF STATE TESTING

Introduction

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) commissioned a survey of state-mandated standardized testing programs in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The purpose of the survey was to update information secured in earlier studies conducted by the Education Commission of the states and the Center for the Study and Evaluation at UCLA. *

The following is a list of the tables used to report the data received:

State Assessment

Table I	Authorization and Purposes of State Assessment Program
Table 11	Program Characteristics
Table 111	Uses of State Assessment Data
Table IV	Variables Used to Aid Interpretation of Data
Table V	Test Construction
Table VI	Reporting Test Scores
Table VII	Effects of Program
Table VIII	Functions of Technical Staff
Table 1X	Staffing and Expenditures for Program, 1984-85
Table X	Testing Time Required (Minutes per Student)
Table XI	Changes in state Assessment Program

A telephone survey of 50 state education agencies (SEAS) and the District of Columbia in June and July, of 1985 was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Gary D. Estes, Director of the Assessment and Evaluation Program of Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. The difficulty of securing reliable and precise data by telephone on subjects as complex as these is apparent, but every effort was made to secure and report information that did not exceed the limitations of the method.

Minimum Competency

Table 1	Characteristics of Programs
Table U	Testing Programs
Table 111	Reporting Practices of Testing Programs
Table IV	Examples of Changes in State and Local Educational Programs and Practices Resulting From State Minimum Competencies Program
Table V	Functions of Technical Staff and Failure Rates
Table VI	Testing Time Required (Minutes per Student)
Table VII	Changes in Minimum Competency Program