

Promoting Academic Success Program: Summer 2006 Instructor Survey Results

The 2006 Washington State Legislature created the Promoting Academic Success (PAS) program to provide remediation for 10th-grade students who do not meet standard in one or more content areas of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).¹

The Legislature also directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to evaluate the effectiveness of remedial programs funded through PAS.² The Institute is to determine the overall effectiveness of PAS and the relative effectiveness of different remedial strategies offered. The Institute published a report in December 2006 on the overall effectiveness of the summer 2006 PAS program and found that PAS increased the met-standard rate by 6 percentage points.³

This report describes the results of the survey administered to the summer 2006 PAS instructors about their instruction. The survey was conducted to obtain data describing the different remedial strategies offered in the classes. A subsequent report will analyze the relationship between the survey data and WASL retest results.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Institute developed three teacher surveys (reading, writing, and math) to collect information about the remedial strategies offered in summer 2006. The surveys were developed in consultation with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) staff.

To facilitate its data collection, OSPI requested that each school district designate a PAS program coordinator. The district PAS coordinators were asked to complete an OSPI online form regarding basic information about PAS programs offered in their districts. The form covered the subject area of

instruction (reading, writing, or math), program name, and the names and e-mail addresses of teachers who provided instruction.⁴

As PAS program information was received from OSPI, Institute staff mailed and e-mailed letters to teachers asking them to complete the Institute surveys for each program they taught. The letter also included a unique code to enable the teacher to access an online version of the survey.

In an effort to increase teacher survey response rates, the Institute contracted with Washington State University's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center to conduct follow-up phone calls. Each teacher was called up to five times or until the Institute received the completed survey(s).

The following exhibit displays the number of surveys sent to the PAS instructors as identified by each district's PAS coordinator. Between 64 and 69 percent of the instructors completed a survey.

Number of Summer 2006 PAS Teacher Surveys

Subject Area	Surveys Sent	Surveys Returned	Percent Returned
Math	346	223	64%
Reading	171	118	69%
Writing	181	116	64%

The appendix displays the percentage distribution of responses to the survey items. There are three sections to the survey: nature of instruction, perceived barriers to instruction, and instructor's background.

¹ ESSB 6386 § 515, Chapter 372, Laws of 2006.

² ESSB 6386, § 607 (11), Chapter 372, Laws of 2006, supplemental operating budget.

³ R. Barnoski & W. Cole. (2006). *Summer 2006 Promoting Academic Success program: Influence on WASL retake scores—Revised*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Document No. 06-12-2202.

⁴ The Institute planned to administer these surveys near the conclusion of summer PAS programs in July 2006 when instructors could be readily contacted. We relied on PAS coordinators for the timely entry of information about the programs offered in their districts and the roster of students who participated. However, not all PAS coordinators entered their program survey data by the end of July. This delayed sending the surveys to the PAS teachers before summer school was completed.

Appendix: PAS Summer 2006 Teacher Survey Results

Nature of PAS Remedial Instruction	Reading	Writing	Math
1. For which students was this PAS remedial instruction designed? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			
WASL Level 1	29.2%	35.8%	44.6%
WASL Level 2	84.9%	88.7%	86.9%
ELL	7.5%	2.8%	4.7%
Special education	7.5%	4.7%	4.7%
Other	6.6%	7.5%	10.3%
None Checked	2.8%	1.9%	0.9%
2. How many sections of PAS remedial instruction did you teach?			
	1.5	1.2	1.5
3. How many weeks did each section last?			
	4.1	3.8	4.1
4. How many hours per week was each section?			
	9.0	8.6	11.9
5. How many students were enrolled in all your section(s)?			
	9.8	9.8	9.8
6. How many certified teachers taught the section(s) with you?			
	0.3	0.4	0.7
7. How many non-certified assistants helped with your section(s)?			
	0.1	0.1	0.1
8. Were you aware of the [reading, writing, math] courses these students took prior to this PAS remedial instruction?			
No	35.2%	22.6%	9.4%
For some students	29.5%	34.0%	21.6%
For most students	10.5%	14.2%	31.5%
For all students	24.8%	29.2%	37.6%
9. What assessments were used to determine student subject-area needs at the beginning of this instruction? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			
Diagnostic test(s)	40.6%	N/A	20.7%
Quizzes/tests	17.9%	N/A	16.9%
Standardized achievement tests	10.4%	N/A	4.7%
Classroom assignments	30.2%	28.3%	21.6%
Homework assignments	5.7%	6.6%	7.5%
WASL scale scores	83.0%	83.0%	86.4%
WASL strand results	41.5%	38.7%	54.5%
Running records	9.4%	N/A	N/A
Writing activities	N/A	61.3%	N/A
Teacher observation	52.8%	56.6%	49.3%
None	0.9%	0.0%	3.3%
Other	0.0%	10.4%	11.7%
10. In your section(s), approximately what percentage of time did you spend in each of the following areas?			
Academic/vocational/career counseling	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%
General instruction	40.3%	51.2%	46.7%
Motivation	10.8%	11.6%	9.2%
Specific instruction on the EALRs and GLEs	16.7%	12.2%	17.9%
Study habits	5.2%	N/A	4.7%
WASL test taking skills: test taking, guessing, and scoring rules	20.0%	15.9%	17.3%
Other	5.4%	7.4%	2.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%
11. Approximately what percentage of time did you spend doing each of the following "Big 5" reading activities?			
Phonemic awareness	1.8%	N/A	N/A
Phonics	2.0%	N/A	N/A
Fluency	10.6%	N/A	N/A
Vocabulary	21.4%	N/A	N/A
Comprehension	56.0%	N/A	N/A
Activities other than "Big 5"	8.2%	N/A	N/A
Total	100%	N/A	N/A
12. What was the primary format of the instruction?			
Classroom	78.8%	75.5%	85.9%
Individual tutoring	21.2%	23.6%	11.3%
Technology-based (Internet/computer lab)	0.0%	0.9%	2.8%

N/A = not applicable; item response not included on that subject area.

Nature of PAS Remedial Instruction, continued	Reading	Writing	Math
13. Approximately what percentage of time did you spend using the following strategies? <i>(Must add to 100%)</i>			
One-on-one instruction	17.6%	22.7%	13.0%
Small group instruction (3 to 5 students)	23.3%	16.4%	11.6%
Whole class instruction, excluding lecture	16.2%	15.3%	13.1%
Lecture	2.9%	4.6%	5.6%
Students working in groups/cooperative learning groups	11.3%	9.1%	24.2%
Peer-to-peer teaching	3.1%	5.8%	4.4%
Internet/computer-aided learning sessions	0.8%	0.9%	3.5%
Activity-based learning	8.1%	7.3%	12.6%
Students working independently on assignments given by teacher	13.2%	15.2%	8.8%
Students working independently on self-guided workbooks or study guides	2.0%	0.6%	1.6%
Other	1.5%	2.1%	1.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%
14. Did the district provide you with written curricula/OSPI Instructional Support Modules for the remedial instruction?			
No	14.3%	15.1%	12.2%
Yes	85.7%	84.9%	87.8%
15. What instructional materials did you use in your section(s)? <i>(Check all that apply)?</i>			
OSPI Instructional Support Modules	93.4%	97.2%	90.1%
WASL practice tests/released items other than from OSPI Instructional Support Modules	59.4%	55.7%	68.1%
WASL teaching materials other than OSPI Instructional Support Modules	37.7%	33.0%	41.8%
Materials aligned with EALRs/GLEs other than OSPI Instructional Support Modules	37.7%	31.1%	41.8%
Materials specifically obtained for this remedial instruction other than OSPI Instructional Support Modules	12.3%	14.2%	21.1%
District-adopted instructional materials	16.0%	14.2%	15.0%
Technology-based materials	4.7%	3.8%	13.1%
Scientifically based reading research (SBRR) intervention program	0.9%	N/A	N/A
Other materials	0.0%	15.1%	11.3%
16. How much homework did you assign?			
None	68.9%	70.8%	66.7%
Up to 2 hours per week	22.6%	21.7%	25.4%
2 to 5 hours per week	6.6%	5.7%	7.0%
More than 5 hours per week	0.9%	1.9%	0.5%
17. What rewards or incentives were used to encourage and motivate students who received the remedial instruction? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			
None	9.4%	13.4%	22.1%
Intrinsic incentives/rewards	75.5%	67.2%	68.1%
Extrinsic incentives/rewards	44.3%	40.3%	44.1%
18. How did you monitor student progress? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			
WASL practice items	84.0%	88.7%	84.5%
Periodic quizzes/tests	34.0%	N/A	51.6%
Specific skills progress monitoring chart (e.g., fluency, words correct per minute)	19.8%	N/A	N/A
Writing assignments	49.1%	N/A	N/A
Classroom assignments	69.8%	84.0%	77.9%
Homework assignments	17.9%	18.9%	21.6%
Teacher observation	81.1%	87.7%	91.5%
Other	12.3%	5.7%	9.9%
19. Did students receive high school credit for this summer remedial reading instruction?			
No	32.1%	41.5%	33.3%
Yes	59.4%	51.9%	58.7%
Do not know	7.5%	6.6%	8.0%
20. When this PAS remedial instruction began, what percentage of students in your section(s) do you estimate were below grade level in (reading, math)?			
	68.5%	N/A	65.8%

N/A = not applicable; item response not included on that subject area.

Barriers to PAS Remedial Instruction				Reading	Writing	Math			
21. Did you encounter any <u>structural barriers</u> that kept students who received this remedial instruction from making gains in meeting standards?									
No				69.8%	75.5%	70.0%			
Yes				31.2%	24.5%	30.0%			
22. Did you encounter any <u>student barriers</u> that kept students who received this remedial instruction from making gains in meeting standards?									
No				31.1%	21.7%	10.3%			
Yes				68.9%	78.3%	89.7%			
23. Please rank the top three (3) <u>structural barriers</u> . Use a 1 for the top barrier, 2 for the next most pressing barrier, and 3 for your final choice.									
Structural Barrier	Reading			Writing			Math		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Lack of professional development opportunities	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.5%	1.9%	1.4%
Lack of appropriate teaching materials	3.8%	2.8%	0.0%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	3.3%	1.4%
Class size: too many students	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	1.4%	0.9%
Facility (room) not conducive to teaching	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	1.4%	2.3%
Lack of access to computer/Internet	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	2.8%	1.9%	0.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Lack of computer programs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%
Lack of equipment for PowerPoint presentation	1.9%	0.0%	0.9%	1.9%	2.8%	0.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%
Lack of audio/visual equipment	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	1.4%	1.4%	2.3%
Lack of student transportation to program	5.7%	1.9%	0.0%	5.7%	1.9%	0.0%	5.6%	4.2%	1.4%
Other	7.5%	3.8%	0.0%	6.6%	0.9%	2.8%	10.8%	0.5%	0.5%
24. Please rank the top three (3) <u>student barriers</u> . Use a 1 for the top barrier, 2 for the next most pressing barrier, and 3 for your final choice.									
Student Barrier	Reading			Writing			Math		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Too wide a range of student abilities in class	9.4%	3.8%	8.5%	11.3%	1.9%	6.6%	19.2%	7.0%	11.3%
English language barriers	5.7%	4.7%	5.7%	8.5%	7.5%	5.7%	1.4%	1.9%	3.8%
Absenteeism	27.4%	10.4%	4.7%	29.2%	16.0%	2.8%	33.8%	14.6%	13.6%
Students have not yet had appropriate coursework	1.9%	0.9%	2.8%	0.9%	2.8%	0.0%	10.8%	14.6%	8.5%
Lack of aptitude	5.7%	13.2%	6.6%	5.7%	6.6%	7.5%	4.7%	12.2%	9.9%
Failure to do assignments	3.8%	5.7%	8.5%	2.8%	11.3%	8.5%	3.3%	9.9%	6.1%
Lack of effort	18.9%	15.1%	5.7%	22.6%	16.0%	14.2%	19.2%	18.8%	14.6%
Classroom discipline	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.9%	1.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%
Other	1.9%	3.8%	0.9%	1.9%	2.8%	2.8%	1.4%	1.4%	2.8%

N/A = not applicable; item response not included on that subject area.

Instructor Background	Reading	Writing	Math
25. Do you teach during the regular school year?			
No	2.8%	5.7%	1.9%
Yes	91.5%	90.6%	95.3%
Not Checked	5.7%	3.8%	2.8%
If yes, what grade(s) do you teach during the school year? (Check all that apply)			
K to 6th	2.8%	0.0%	1.4%
7th to 8th	6.6%	4.7%	6.6%
9th to 12th	82.1%	85.8%	87.8%
9th	54.7%	52.8%	70.4%
10th	69.8%	71.7%	82.6%
11th	62.3%	59.4%	79.8%
12th	57.5%	59.4%	72.3%
If yes, do you teach:			
No	14.2%	9.9%	9.9%
Yes	85.8%	90.1%	90.1%
If yes, do you teach classes composed mostly of students who struggle with:			
No	39.6%	47.9%	47.9%
Yes	41.5%	42.7%	42.7%
No box checked	18.9%	9.4%	9.4%
26. What special training have you received to teach students who have not met the 10th-grade standards? (Check all that apply)			
OSPI Instructional Support Module training from OSPI staff	57.5%	55.7%	62.0%
OSPI Instructional Support Module training from district or ESD staff	34.9%	36.8%	24.4%
OSPI Instructional Support Module training from OSPI or district/ESD	81.1%	83.0%	77.9%
K–12 reading model: LINKS	2.8%	N/A	N/A
K–12 reading model: LETRS	0.9%	N/A	N/A
None	6.6%	7.5%	12.2%
Other training	0.0%	17.9%	16.9%
27. In which of the following WASL activities have you participated? (Check all that apply)			
Item prompt writing	10.4%	24.5%	11.7%
Data review	13.2%	15.1%	15.0%
Scoring	22.6%	36.8%	27.7%
OSPI/ESD deep alignment	1.9%	N/A	4.7%
Range finding	4.7%	7.5%	9.4%
Curriculum alignment	27.4%	31.1%	39.0%
None	45.3%	35.8%	38.5%
Other	0.0%	8.5%	6.1%
None Checked	12.3%	5.7%	4.2%
28. What is the highest level of education you have attained?			
Associate's degree	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bachelor's degree	65.7%	24.5%	65.7%
Master's degree or equivalent	30.0%	66.0%	30.0%
Doctoral degree or equivalent	1.4%	4.7%	1.4%
None Checked	2.8%	4.7%	2.8%
29. Do you have a current teaching certificate?			
Yes	97.2%	99.9%	97.2%
30. What level(s) are/were you certified to teach? (Check all that apply)			
Elementary	20.8%	11.3%	10.3%
Secondary	72.6%	77.4%	73.7%
Middle level (4–9)	32.1%	24.5%	23.0%
Lifetime (K–12)	20.8%	17.0%	23.5%
None Checked	7.5%	5.7%	3.8%

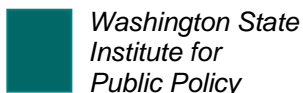
N/A = not applicable; item response not included on that subject area.

Instructor Background	Reading	Writing	Math
31. What field(s) are/were you endorsed to teach? (Check all that apply)			
English	69.8%	83.0%	9.9%
Language arts	43.4%	53.8%	2.8%
Reading	24.5%	19.8%	4.7%
Mathematics	3.8%	1.9%	82.6%
Social studies	24.5%	28.3%	9.4%
Science	2.8%	2.8%	24.9%
Foreign language	5.7%	6.6%	1.9%
ESL	3.8%	2.8%	0.9%
Special education	11.3%	4.7%	7.0%
Art	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%
Drama	2.8%	7.5%	0.5%
Music	1.9%	0.0%	0.9%
Physical education	5.7%	4.7%	8.9%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	22.1%
None Checked	11.3%	7.5%	4.7%
32. How many years have you taught (English/math) in your <u>current</u> district?	6.9	8.1	7.1
33. How many years did you teach (English/math) in <u>other</u> district(s) or state(s)?	4.1	3.8	3.7
34. How many years have you taught <u>altogether</u> (any subject)?	12.3	12.2	12.7

N/A = not applicable; item response not included on that subject area.

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Document No. 07-02-2204



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