



IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO UNIVERSAL SCREENING WITHIN THE CURRENT HIGHLY CAPABLE ALLOCATION

People think that universal screening is expensive and complex. It's not.

People think that universal screening is an unfunded mandate. It's not.

Basic education funding is for ALL students, including Highly Capable (HC). "For highly capable students, access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction is access to a basic education."¹ Basic education funding pays for classrooms, teachers, and curriculum for all students, including HC students.

Districts already have the money for universal screening. The HC allocation doubled in 2017. According to the legislature, the purpose of the increased funding was to improve equity of identification for low-income students. The increase in the allocation is intended to cover the costs of universal identification for districts. Several districts which use universal screening have found this to be true. Some have even found universal screening costs less than other methods, especially compared to pricey Saturday testing. Thus, universal screening calls for a **reallocation of Highly Capable identification funds**, not additional funds.

Universal screening requires no new test. House Bill 1611², the legislation proposed in 2022 establishing universal screening will be introduced again in January 2023 with a new bill number. The bill states unequivocally that **NO NEW TEST IS REQUIRED**. It recommends that you use data you already have: previously administered standardized, classroom-based, performance, cognitive, or achievement assessments, or research-based behavior ratings scales. Review the data for every student in a particular grade level for indications of the potential or need for advanced learning opportunities or services.

Universal screening is not complex. Districts of all sizes from Pasco, Quincy, and North Kitsap to Kent and Northshore have implemented universal screening and found it to be simpler and/or cheaper than prior practice and MUCH more effective, dramatically increasing identification of historically underrepresented students in HC programs.

Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) supports universal screening. WSPTA supports legislation or policies that achieves "equitable representation in highly capable (HiCap) programs via universal screening, including students who are low-income, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), highly mobile, ELL, and students with disabilities."³

Washington Education Association (WEA) supports universal screening. WEA finds "universal screening...to be the most effective and equitable identification systems for identifying highly capable learners from all ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds."

¹ [RCW 28A.185.020 \(1\)](#)

² [HB 1611 Sec. 4 \(2\)\(i\)](#)

³ [WSPTA Advocacy Statement](#)

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