

# STATE EDUCATION AGENCY CABINET DISCUSSION GUIDE

*SEA Cross Division Discussion  
Through-Year Assessment  
2 hour discussion*



**The purpose of this guide is to surface strengths and opportunities in your assessment system, and to determine if a through-year assessment might be right for your state.**

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## **Guidance:**

Use this agenda to host a two-hour discussion with a cross functional group of SEA leaders to learn about and determine if a through-year assessment might be the right solution for your state. Participants should include decision makers focused on assessment, data systems, curriculum and instruction, special education, multilingual learners, and legal.

## **Pre-work:**

Consider asking participants to read **this resource** and/or watch **this webinar** to better understand what through-year assessments are and how they are being used in various places across the country.

## **Connector: Describe a vivid memory you have about a time you took an assessment.**

After everyone shares, discuss any commonalities in the stories? Use this to frame today’s discussion to ground it in the assessment experience.

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**Time: 10 minutes**

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## **Brainstorming activity: What is working in our current assessment system?**

- + What concerns/areas of improvement have been expressed by families, educators, students, and leaders regarding the current assessment system?
- + What is our vision for the future of our assessment system?

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**Time: 20 minutes**     **Resources:** Use Jamboard (digital) or chart paper (in person) to post ideas.

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## What is a through-year assessment? What are other states doing across the country?

After reviewing materials, put the group into pairs to discuss the following questions:

- + What excites you about the promise of a through-year assessment?
- + What do you want to learn more about regarding through-year assessment?

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**Time: 25 minutes**      **Resources: EdFirst Microsite Webinar; What are through-year assessments?**

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## What we know about the legislative/legal implications for through-year assessment?

- + How does this impact our state?
- + What questions do we still have?

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**Time: 20 minutes**      **Resources: Policy analysis Slides; Policymaker's Guide**

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## Our state's context

Discuss the following questions as a group:

- + What models resonate most with us?
- + What legislative, structural, political or other challenges would have to be overcome to implement a through-year assessment?
- + Could through-year assessment fill the gap between our current state and our desired state?
- + What additional information or support do we need to continue exploring this solution?

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**Time: 30 minutes**

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## What are our next steps?

- + Do we need to collect more information from people not at this table? People most proximate to the problem we are trying to solve? How would we do that?
- + How can we learn more?
- + When will we meet next?

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**Time: 30 minutes**

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