Washington State House Bill 1599 Graduation Pathways Temporary Exception for Students with Military Intent due to COVID

**Background:** Washington State Board of Education (WA-SBE) identified in 2019 that a score of 31 or higher on the school site ASVAB Career Exploration Program in lieu of the state assessments might be used as an approved Graduation Pathway for some students.

**Clarification Detail:** The school site ASVAB CEP and Enlistment Testing conducted at Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) stations are separate. Students cannot normally use their MEPS Enlistment scores as a graduation option. Only the ASVAB CEP given at schools were formally approved as a Graduation Pathway.

**Temporary Exception Option:** The WA-SBE is allowing a temporary exception due to COVID-19, as cited by Ms. Alissa Muller, Policy Manager for Career and College Readiness, WA-SBE. For students who are planning to join the military, MEPS Enlistment scores MAY be used as a graduation option. As stated by Ms. Muller:

“However, these are not normal times and I know schools may have concerns about holding an ASVAB test in their building right now. So, if a student is considering joining the military after high school, it would be appropriate for them to take the test at a MEPS location and then share the score back with their school to meet their graduation pathway requirement.”

**Method:** Recruiters must sponsor the student/applicant to test at Seattle, Spokane or Portland MEPS by appointment. If preliminary testing (called “PICAT”) is completed at a recruiting station, the student/applicant will require a follow up verification test conducted at a MEPS site.

After the test, the Recruiter will give the student their score sheet. The student will take that score sheet to their school to apply it toward their high school assessments.

*Important Note:* This is a temporary exception and may end at any time at SBE discretion.

**Tools:** Help your students improve their scores!

If your student is seeking to utilize the ASVAB Graduation Pathway option, the U.S. Army has developed and made available a great pre-test preparation to help students succeed called the U.S. ARMY ASVAB CHALLENGE App and it is downloadable to a cell phone, iPad or tablet.

You are encouraged to contact your local Army recruiter for any assistance with using the app or with ASVAB testing.

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