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I work at a community college in the state of Washington. The college is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) which is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit postsecondary institutions. Just as credit courses for which Federal Financial Aid is available, we place and assess our students using locally developed placement tools grounded in student learning outcomes, grades, and a cycle of continuous improvement which includes rigorous program reviews and assessment. Courses offered in the division of Adult Basic Education are vetted and approved by the college's Curriculum Committee. The courses are aligned with NRS levels and descriptors in "Appendix B: New Educational Functioning Level Descriptors for Adult Education and English as a Second Language." I don't understand why students in Adult Education programs are treated differently from students receiving federal financial aid when they are being taught in the same regionally accredited institution.

The mandate to use an inaccurate and flawed standardized test, which in Washington State is the CASAS test, means that we use a significant amount of funding to pay for testing materials, and to administer the test. This cost can be measured in dollars as well as in time wasted for our students, faculty and staff which could be better spent on learning. Because the approved tests are so inaccurate, it forces programs to test students twice using local assessments to accurately track and measure student progress.