



**GRADE**

**3**

# Your Child's Progress

## Learning goals for the 2011-12 school year

### Learning Standards: **Grade 3**

Your third-grade student has specific learning goals in every subject. Washington has learning standards that define the knowledge and skills students should gain in each subject starting with kindergarten. Each teacher is responsible not only for the learning standards in the grade they are currently teaching, but also for those in previous grades. Below are examples of key learning goals for third grade. To learn more about our state learning standards, go to: [www.k12.wa.us/standards](http://www.k12.wa.us/standards).

### Washington State Learning Goals

The four state learning goals below provided the foundation for the development of the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs), which help measure progress and accountability:

#### WRITING



- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including telling a story and explaining
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics, adds detail and elaborates
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

#### READING



- Reads fluently with meaning and purpose
- Reads a wider variety of topics and genres
- Demonstrates comprehension of main ideas and details through discussion, writing and evidence from text to support thinking
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic or author

#### MATH



- Solidifies important skills and concepts related to addition and subtraction
- Learns the meaning of multiplication and division and how they relate
- Deepens understanding of fractions by comparing them and representing them in different ways
- Uses pictures, symbols or math language to explain the reasoning behind their decisions and solutions

#### SCIENCE



- Learns to think systematically about how the parts of objects, plants and animals are connected and work together
- Carries out investigations in collaboration with other students and support from the teacher
- Learns to identify several different forms of energy (e.g., heat, light, motion, electricity and sound)

**1.** Read with comprehension, write with skill and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings

**2.** Know and apply core concepts and principles of math, science, the arts, social studies, health and fitness

**3.** Think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems

**4.** Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities



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# State Testing in Washington: Grades 3-8

Most students in grades 3-8 will take the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). About one percent of students participate in the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS), an equally challenging program for some students in special education.

The MSP name conveys the goal of the test: to *measure student progress*. State testing should never be the sole judge of a student's academic skills and knowledge. A student's entire academic performance should always be considered. If you have questions about your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school.

Please visit [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com) to learn more about state testing.

## State Testing FAQ

### What types of questions appear on state tests?

The reading, math and science MSP includes multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Four-point essay questions have been eliminated on reading, math and science tests. This change allows students to show they are able to solve the problems, while not being scored on their writing ability. We have a writing MSP test in 4th and 7th grades.

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### State Testing and Reporting Timeline

- April 27- May 18:** MSP paper/pencil testing window for grades 3-8\*
- April 27- June 4:** MSP online testing window for grades 3-8\*
- By mid Sept.:** All MSP reports sent home

\* Testing is 1 day per subject for reading and math

### What Does a MSP Score Mean?

Students receive a score for each MSP test taken. Scores are based on how an individual student performed, so you won't find percentiles often provided by other standardized tests. Scores fall into one of four levels:

- Level 4 Exceeds State Standards:** Represents advanced mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 3 Meets State Standards:** Represents mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 2 Below State Standard:** Represents some mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 1 Well-Below State Standard:** Represents little to no mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.

## The Move to Online Testing

Washington is not the first state to make the move to online testing, but it is among the leaders. The state's goal is for the majority of elementary and middle school grades in reading, math and science to be tested via computers in all school districts by 2014.

In spring 2012, the MSP will be given online in grades 3-8, with third graders being offered the opportunity for the first time. Last year, fourth and fifth graders began testing online in reading and math. Feasibility studies are being conducted for online testing in fourth- and seventh-grade writing.

## Who Gets Tested and When?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires yearly testing of students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and math, and in three grades in science (grades 5, 8 and 10 in Washington). Our state also tests students in writing (grades 4, 7 and 10). Our state has also moved to online testing.

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Reading	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	NT	✓	<i>Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirement.</i>	
Math	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓	✓		
Writing		✓			✓		NT	✓		
Science			✓ ■			✓ ■	✓	✓		

■ Offered online in spring 2012

NT Subject not tested (9th graders only take end-of-course exams in math and science, if they are in those specific courses)



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### For more information

OSPI: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

MSP/HSPE: [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com)

Questions: [StateTesting@k12.wa.us](mailto:StateTesting@k12.wa.us)