



# GRADE

# 6

## Your Child's Progress

### Learning standards for the 2017–18 school year

Washington has K–12 learning standards that define the knowledge and skills every student needs to be ready for career, college, and life when they complete high school.

Below are brief examples of Washington's key learning goals for 6th grade.  
For more complete information, visit:

[www.YourChildsProgress.com](http://www.YourChildsProgress.com)

- **The Arts.** Move with a partner or group; explore and apply elements of music; understand playwriting conventions; use aesthetic criteria.
- **Educational Technology.** Use spreadsheet software to display poll or survey data.
- **English Language Arts (ELA).** Compare and contrast authors' perspectives and write arguments to support claims using reason and relevant evidence.
- **Health and Physical Education.** Assess physical education status and set reasonable health-related goals, understand peer pressure and how to be a positive role model.
- **Math.** Learn the concepts of ratios and rates, and compute with fractions and decimals to solve multi-step word problems.
- **Science.** Learn about engineering, develop models, and examine feedbacks between systems.
- **Social Studies.** Explore the Earth and its peoples through the study of ancient world history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems.

Washington also has learning standards in **Integrated Environment and Sustainability**, **World Languages**, **Career and Technical Education** (frameworks and industry standards for middle and high school), **English Language Proficiency** (in ELA, math and science), as well as guidelines for **HIV & Sexual Health** and **Early Learning** (birth–3rd grade) that complement a well-rounded education for all students.

**Special education:** Students who receive services have accommodations, modifications, and supports identified in their individual education plans.

**English language learners:** Students who are learning to speak English have language proficiency standards that help teachers plan instruction across subjects that is appropriate to each student's level of language development.

### Washington State Learning Goals

The Washington state Legislature has established four learning goals to provide the foundation for the development of all academic learning standards in the state:

1. Read with comprehension, write effectively, and communicate successfully in a variety of ways and settings and with a variety of audiences;
2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history, including different cultures and participation in representative government; geography; arts; and health and fitness;
3. Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and to integrate technology literacy and fluency as well as different experiences and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and
4. Understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
[www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

# State Testing in Washington

Federal law requires yearly testing of students in grades 3–8 and once in high school in English language arts (ELA) and math, and in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school in science. Washington state also requires students to pass specific tests to be eligible to graduate from high school.

Most students in grades 3–8 will take the **Smarter Balanced** tests in ELA and math, and the **Washington Comprehensive Assessment for Science** in grades 5 and 8. These tests may be taken with or without tools, supports, or accommodations.

Students with significant cognitive challenges documented in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) take alternate assessments in ELA, math, and science, called the Washington – Access to Instruction and Measurement (**WA-AIM**).

State testing should *never* be the sole judge of a student’s academic skills and knowledge. If you have questions about your child’s learning, please contact your child’s teacher or school.

Students learning to speak English in grades K–12 will take the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (**ELPA21**). This assessment measures English language skills and annual growth in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students who receive a proficiency level of Emerging or Progressing on ELPA21 qualify to receive English language program support services.

## State Testing FAQ

### Why does my child need to take state tests?

State testing is required by state and federal laws. It isn’t the only way to find out how a student is doing in school, but it might help identify learning issues sooner rather than later.

In high school, passing state tests or approved alternatives shows students have a solid foundation of academic skills, no matter where they went to school or what they choose to do after they graduate.

### May I view my child’s test?

For test security reasons, students may not discuss the content of state tests with their friends and family. However, families are welcome to review their child’s tests after they are scored.

## State Testing Windows

Testing is scheduled within the windows listed below. Contact your local school district to find out which dates your child will be testing.

### STATE TESTING WINDOWS

**Oct 16–** WA-AIM

**April 6:**

**Feb 1–** ELPA21

**Mar 30:**

**Mar 5–** Smarter

**Jun 8:** Balanced

**Apr 16–** Science

**Jun 8:**

*OSPI provides score reports for all tests listed above. Contact your local school district for more information.*

## What Does a State Test Score Mean?

**Level 4 Exceeds Achievement Standard:** Demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in a subject.

**Level 3 Meets Achievement Standard:** Demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in a subject.

**Level 2 Nearly Meets Achievement Standard:** May require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in a subject.

**Level 1 Does Not Meet Achievement Standard:** Needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in a subject.

## Tests by Grade Level, 2017–18

	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
ELA				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Math				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science						✓			✓

### Notes:

- The English Language Proficiency Assessment is necessary for students learning to speak English. Students test to qualify to receive support. They continue to test, annually, until they reach English language proficiency.
- Other tests are required, but districts have some flexibility in choosing the tests and in deciding when students take them. The tests include second-grade reading and classroom-based tests in social studies, the arts, health and physical education and other subjects. More information can be found in the Subject Area links at <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/default.aspx>.
- School districts also may require additional tests. Check your local district for more details.

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