

Your Child's Progress



GRADE

K

Learning goals for the 2011-12 school year

Learning Standards: Kindergarten

Your kindergarten 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 kindergarten. To learn more about our state learning standards, go to: www.k12.wa.us/standards.

WRITING

- Knows that an audience exists outside of self and understands writing has different purposes
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics and adds details
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level



READING

- Understands and applies concepts of print and sounds
- Expands oral language skills and gains meaningful vocabulary for reading
- Demonstrates comprehension by responding in different ways when listening to or viewing text of all kinds
- Shows interest in a variety of books



MATH

- Begins to develop basic notions of numbers and uses numbers to think about objects and the world around them
- Learns what it means to add and subtract by joining and separating sets of objects
- Learns to describe attributes of geometric shapes, such as triangles, rectangles and circles



SCIENCE

- Learns that scientific investigations involve trying to answer questions by making observations or trying things out
- Learns to use simple tools (e.g., pencils, scissors) and materials (e.g., paper, tape, glue and cardboard) to solve problems in creative ways
- Learns about the properties of liquids and solids



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:

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



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
www.k12.wa.us

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 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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Testing Schedule

Schools give state tests in grades 3-8 during the spring. The MSP test is now given in May. Every grade tests in reading and math (1 day each), while others also test in writing (2 days) and science (1 day). While the paper-and-pencil testing window is about 3 weeks long, schools choose what days to test during that period. Please contact your school about their specific testing calendar.

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

MSP/HSPE: www.WAtesting.com

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