



# Certificate of Academic Achievement Options

Most students will meet the state reading, writing and math graduation requirements by passing the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). Some students, however, may need to use an assessment other than the HSPE to demonstrate their skills. For these students, the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) Options – or state-approved alternatives – are available.

Learn more about CAA Options at [www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions) or talk with your school counselor.

## General information

### What are the CAA Options?

- Advanced Placement and college admission test scores, such as SAT and ACT
- Collection of Evidence (COE)
- GPA Comparison

### Are the CAA Options easier than the HSPE?

No. The CAA Options are designed, as required by law, to be as challenging as the HSPE.

### Who is eligible to use the CAA Options?

Students can use the CAA Options after taking each high school exam once, or if they transfer from out of state or an in-state non-public school in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Different rules apply for the Collection of Evidence. For more information, visit [www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions).

### Do eligible students have to use the CAA Options?

No. Students have five opportunities from spring of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to spring of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year to take the HSPE and earn a CAA. Students take end-of-course exams in the year they take the respective class (algebra I, geometry or biology).

### May students keep taking the HSPE if they're working on one of the CAA Options?

Yes.



**May a student use a high school state exam to meet standard in one area and use a CAA Option in the other(s)?**

Yes.

### Is there someone at each school parents/guardians and students can talk to about the CAA Options?

Yes. The school's CAA Options building facilitator, the student's counselor or the school principal.

## Direct Access to CAA Options

### What are the requirements for transfer students?

Students who transfer into Washington public schools during 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade from out of state or an in-state non-public school setting (private or home school) have immediate access to CAA Options without taking the HSPE.

### What if my student passed an exam in another state?

Out-of-state students who transfer into Washington public schools during their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year may apply to have the state assessment graduation requirement waived if they have previously passed another state's high school exam. For more information, visit:

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

## College, AP Test Scores

### What is it?

Students may use their reading, writing or math scores on the SAT or ACT to show they have key knowledge and skills. In addition, students who earn a score of three or higher on specified Advanced Placement (AP) tests may use these scores. PSAT math scores are no longer an option.

### What test scores do students need to earn?

Students must meet or exceed one of the following scores in a subject area:

Math	SAT: 470	ACT: 19
Reading	SAT: 350	ACT: 13
Writing	SAT: 380	ACT: 15

### What AP tests count?

**Math:** Calculus or statistics

**Writing:** English language and composition

**Reading:** English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, U.S. history, world history, U.S. government and politics, or comparative government and politics

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**If a student took the SAT, ACT or an AP test before taking the HSPE, can a student submit those scores?**

Yes, but the student must take the HSPE before submitting SAT, ACT or AP scores for the CAA.

**May a student get a fee waiver or reimbursement for taking the SAT, ACT or AP tests?**

Yes. Eligible students who use these tests for purposes of a CAA Option may get a fee voucher or get reimbursed ([www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Equivalency.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Equivalency.aspx))

**How does a student access this CAA Option?**

Students who have taken one of these tests and met or exceeded the required score may complete an application form, have it signed by a school official and send the application and the test's score report to OSPI.

For more information and to apply:

[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Equivalency.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Equivalency.aspx)

To register for SAT & AP exams: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

To register for the ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

## Collection of Evidence

**What is it?**

Students compile a set of classroom work samples with the help of a teacher. This option may be used for reading and/or writing. The math COE returns in the 2012-13 school year, but can only be used for students in the class of 2013 and beyond.

**How does it work?**

Students use subject-specific classroom work samples developed under a teacher's supervision. Students must follow state guidelines for collections.

**Who is eligible to use this option?**

**Class of 2012:** Students who have taken the state high school exam at least one time, at least one year prior and not met standard in the content area may submit a COE.

**Class of 2013:** Students who have taken the state high school exam at least twice, at least one year prior and not met standard in the content area may submit a collection.

**How does a student meet the requirement?**

Each student's collection is scored by a panel of educators selected and trained by the state. Collections must show a student has the skills that are tested on the HSPE.

**How does a student access this option?**

Students should inform their school principal, counselor or teacher of their interest in developing a collection. The deadlines for 2011-12 are in January (for 12<sup>th</sup> graders and augmented collections) and June (for 12<sup>th</sup> graders only).

**Is there an option for students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs?**

Yes. CTE students may use class work from their CTE classes to build their collections as well as work samples they complete in other classes.

**When do students receive their results?**

The school district will be notified about 60 days after the collections are submitted.

**Where can I get more information?**

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/CollectionofEvidence.aspx>

## GPA Comparison

**What is it?**

A student's grades in either math or English courses are compared to the grades of other students who took

the same courses AND passed the HSPE. This option may be used to meet the math, reading or writing standard.

**Who is eligible to use this option?**

This option is available to students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who have a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher across all courses.

**How does it work?**

The school district identifies a group of students who took, for example, the same math courses as the applicant student and also passed the math HSPE. The group's GPA earned in these courses is calculated and compared to the applicant student's GPA in the same courses.

**Where can I get more information?**

[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Comparison.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Comparison.aspx)

## Special Circumstance Appeals

**Who is eligible for the Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal?**

Students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who have not met standard on the high school exam (or an approved alternative), and experience a "special, unavoidable circumstance" that hinders their ability to access a state-approved assessment as a senior, may appeal to a state review board. For more information, visit

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Appeals.aspx>.

