



Earning a Diploma: State Graduation Requirements

Our state graduation requirements are designed to ensure students have a solid foundation of reading, writing, math and science skills, no matter the path they choose after high school. We encourage families and students to meet regularly with their school counselors to ensure they are on track for graduation.

To be eligible to graduate in Washington, high school students must: pass specific state exams, earn all required state and local credits, and successfully complete a high school and beyond plan and a culminating project. The assessment requirements are as follows:

- **Through the class of 2012:** Students must pass a state exam in **reading** and **writing**, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education. Students can meet the state’s **math** requirement by passing a high school math exam **OR** by earning two math credits after 10th grade.
- **Classes of 2013 and 2014:** Students must pass a state exam in **reading** and **writing** and one end-of-course exam in **math**, state-approved alternatives or assessments for students in special education.
- **Class of 2015 and beyond:** Students must pass a state exam in **reading** and **writing**, and end-of-course exams in **algebra 1**, **geometry** and **biology**, state-approved alternatives or assessments for students in special education.

For more information, see the chart below, speak to your counselor or visit: www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements.

NOTE: Graduating class is determined when a student first enters ninth grade

Through Class of 2012	Classes of 2013 and 2014	Class of 2015 and Beyond
<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing HS WASL/HSPE or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternatives.*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing HSPE or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternatives.*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing HSPE or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternatives.*</p>
<p>MATH Pass math high school WASL/HSPE, one end-of-course exam or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternative.* —OR— Earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade.*</p>	<p>MATH Pass one math end-of-course exam (algebra 1 or geometry) or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternative.*</p>	<p>MATH Pass two math end-of-course exams or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternative.*</p>
	<p>SCIENCE No longer required for students in these two graduating classes (as signed into law June 7, 2011)</p>	<p>SCIENCE Pass biology end-of-course exam or assessment for students in special education. —OR— Pass state-approved alternative.*</p>
<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>	<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>	<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>

* Students must take each high school state exam at least once before using a state-approved alternative. Different rules apply for the Collection of Evidence.

Graduation Requirements and State Testing

High school state exams

- In spring 2011, two end-of-course exams in algebra 1 and geometry replaced the math HSPE.
- Beginning in spring 2012, an end-of-course biology exam will replace the science HSPE.
- Students have five state-funded opportunities during high school to take the state exam in each content area.
- Students pass state exams with a Level 3 or 4 score.
- Score appeal process: Parents/guardians, after reviewing their student's high school test, may file a score appeal.
- To learn more about the state testing, please visit: <http://www.WAtesting.com>.

Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement

- **Certificate of Academic Achievement:** A requirement for graduation beginning with the class of 2013.
- **Certificate of Individual Achievement:** Only for students in special education. A requirement for graduation beginning in with the class of 2013. Students can earn it by passing the HSPE-Basic, WAAS-Portfolio, WAAS-DAPE or Locally Determined Assessment in reading, writing, math and science.
- Students through the class of **2012** who pass the reading, writing and math WASL/HSPE/WAAS exams earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). **Classes of 2013 & 2014:** Must pass reading, writing and math. **Class of 2015 and beyond:** Must pass reading, writing, math and science.
- Students through the class of **2012** who earn two math credits after 10th grade, BUT do not pass a state math exam or a state-approved alternative, are still eligible to earn a diploma but they won't earn a certificate.

State-approved alternatives

- Students who have the skills but are unable to show them on state exams may use state-approved alternatives.
- Students may access the CAA options after taking the state exam in every subject area at least once. Students must take the state exam at least twice before accessing the Collection of Evidence.
- The Certificate of Academic Achievement Options are:
 - Collection of Evidence – Students compile a set of classroom work samples with the help of a teacher(s). Collections for students in Career and Technical Education programs can include work from their program. The state scores collections twice a year. Students must take the state exam twice in each content area before attempting a collection.
 - Fee Waivers are available for eligible students to take the approved SAT, ACT and AP exams.
 - SAT or ACT – Students may use their math, reading or English and writing scores on college readiness tests. The minimum scores are: **Reading** – SAT 350; ACT 13. **Writing** – SAT 380; ACT 15. **Math** – SAT 470; ACT 19.
 - Advanced Placement (AP) – Students may use a score of three or higher on select AP exams: **Math** (calculus or statistics), **Writing** (English language and composition); and **Reading** (English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history, world history, United States government and politics, or comparative government and politics)
 - GPA Comparison – For 12th grade students only. A student's grades in math courses and/or English courses are compared with the grades of students who took the same courses AND passed the high school WASL/HSPE/EOC. To access this option, a student must have an overall cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- To learn more about state-approved alternatives, please visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS>.

Assessments for students in special education

- Students in special education may take the high school state exams with or without accommodations.
- The following options are also available:
 - HSPE-Basic – Students take the high school WASL/HSPE – with or without accommodations – but IEP teams adjust passing criteria from Proficient (Level 3) to Basic (Level 2).
 - Washington Alternate Assessment System Portfolio (WAAS Portfolio) – Students unable to take paper and pencil tests show their skills and knowledge through a collection of their work.
 - Developmentally Appropriate Proficiency Exam (WAAS-DAPE) – Students in grades 11 and 12 only take the WASL/HSPE – with or without accommodations – at a grade level that best matches their abilities. Students pass by earning Level 3 on each test taken.
 - Locally Determined Assessments – For 12th graders who need modified achievement standards.
 - Awareness Level Waiver – Available for students diagnosed as performing at an “awareness” level.
- To learn more about special education assessment, please visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/altassess.aspx>.