



# Your Child's Progress

## Learning standards for the 2016–17 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 9th grade.  
For more complete information, visit:

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

- **The Arts.** Refine performance skills; perform, compose and analyze music; write one-act scripts; become visually literate thinker and creator.
- **Educational Technology.** Identify and analyze websites with opposing points of view.
- **English Language Arts (ELA).** Analyze complex characters and how an author's ideas are developed; use technology to produce writing projects.
- **Health and Physical Education.** Develop a personal health/physical education plan and health-literacy skills that will continue through adulthood.
- **Math.** High schools students typically take algebra I, geometry, and algebra II. They model real-world phenomena, compare simple and complex functions, and learn about congruence, similarity, and symmetry through geometric transformations.
- **Science.** Analyze major global challenges and possible solutions; develop and use models; plan and conduct investigations; analyze data.
- **Social Studies.** Explore major developments that have shaped the modern world, including human rights, revolution, democracy, and economics.

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.

# GRADE 9

## 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  
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# 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. If a student does not meet standard on one or more tests required for graduation, he/she may retake the test(s), or access a state-approved alternative.

Most high school students will take the **Smarter Balanced** tests and science exams to satisfy their requirements. The tests may be taken with or without tools, supports or accommodations.

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

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.

## Tests by Grade Level in 2016–17

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
ELA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	1	3
Math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	1	3
Science			✓			✓	2	✓	3,4	3

### Notes:

- Students can, but are not required to, take ELA and/or math tests in 10th grade. Students who take either or both tests in 10th grade and who achieve a Level 3 or 4 aren’t required to take the tests in 11th grade.
  - Ninth graders take a biology EOC exam only if they are taking that specific course. Students who take a biology EOC exam before 10th grade and meet standard do not need to retake it in 10th grade. Passing a biology EOC exam is required for the Class of 2017 and beyond.
  - Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirements.
  - Students with significant cognitive challenges documented in their IEP take an alternate science assessment in 11th grade, rather than 10th grade, when the biology EOC exam is typically administered.
- 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.

## Class of 2020

### Tests Required for Graduation

(Choose one per subject)

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Smarter Balanced ELA test
- WA-AIM

#### MATH

- Smarter Balanced math test
- WA-AIM

#### SCIENCE

- Biology EOC exam
- WA-AIM

## 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 17– WA-AIM

April 7:

Feb 1– ELPA21

March 14

(tentative):

March 6– Smarter Balanced

June 9:

May 8– EOC

June 9:

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.