



**GRADE**

**4**

# Your Child's Progress

## Expectations for the 2008-09 school year

### Grade Level Expectations: Grade 4

Your fourth-grade student has specific learning goals in every subject. Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs, define the knowledge and skills that students should gain from kindergarten through the 10th grade. Each teacher is responsible not only for the grade level expectations in the grade they are currently teaching, but for those that precede. Below are key learning goals for fourth grade. To learn more about Grade Level Expectations, go to: <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>.

### 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:

#### WRITING



- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including telling a story and explaining
- Analyzes ideas, selects a narrow topic and elaborates using specific details and/or examples
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

#### READING



- Reads skillfully with meaning and purpose, using appropriate comprehension and vocabulary strategies
- Reads, discusses, reflects and responds, using evidence from text, to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic or author

#### MATH



- Understands how measurement units of length, mass and capacity are organized in the metric system
- Applies a procedure to measure length, perimeter and area
- Reads and understands data from line plots and pictographs
- Understands that math is used extensively in daily life outside the classroom

#### SCIENCE



- Uses investigative skills to begin to compare systems
- Examines cause and effect and asks what is a fact and what is an opinion
- Primarily explores more complex systems in a more complex manner, such as the changes of earth systems over time

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



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# Washington Assessment of Student Learning

During state testing periods, most students take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). About one percent of students participate in the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS), an equally challenging program for some students in special education programs.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school. To learn more about the state's testing system, please visit [www.wasinfo.com](http://www.wasinfo.com).

Below are questions that came from actual WASL tests given in 2007 and '08. To review more questions like these, along with scored, unidentified student responses, go to:

[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/testquestions.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/testquestions.aspx).

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

The following question is based on knowledge of vocabulary from a specific reading passage.

What is the meaning of the word gleam in paragraph 1?

- A. Ripple
- B. Shine
- C. Heat

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

The following question involves using skills from number sense and measurement.

Cranberries cost 89 cents a bag. What is the greatest number of bags Mrs. Martinez can buy for 5 dollars?

- A. Four bags
- B. Five bags
- C. Six bags

### Who Gets Tested and When?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires yearly testing of students in grades 3-8 and 10 to measure progress in reading and math. Washington also tests in writing (grades 4, 7 and 10) and science (grades 5, 8 and 10). See the chart below for what subjects are tested when.

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Reading	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Optional for students wanting to take 10th-grade test early.*	✓	Necessary only if student has not met WASL graduation requirement.	
Math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Writing		✓			✓			✓		
Science			✓			✓		✓		

\* Testing for 9th graders is voluntary and limited to reading, writing and math

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## State Testing and Reporting Timeline

**April 13- May 1:** WASL testing window for grades 3-8\*

**Late August:** WASL results released for all students

**By end of Sept.:** All WASL reports sent home

\* Generally testing is 1-2 days per subject

## What Does a WASL Score Mean?

Students receive a score for each WASL 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. Student can apply knowledge and skills to real-world situations.

**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.



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For more information  
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