



GRADE

6

Your Child's Progress

Expectations for the 2008-09 school year

Grade Level Expectations: Grade 6

Your sixth-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 sixth 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 persuading and explaining
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

READING



- Adjusts reading purpose, pace and strategies according to difficulty and/or type of text
- 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, genre, theme or author

MATH



- Understands the meaning of multiplication and division of non-negative decimals and fractions
- Understands the concepts of ratio and percent
- Analyzes numerical, measurement, geometric, probability and/or statistical information from a variety of sources
- Understands that math is used extensively in daily life outside the classroom

SCIENCE



- Becomes more like scientists in thinking and investigations and learns the importance of sound investigative practices
- Learns how to identify the problems and generates questions that can be answered scientifically
- Begins to apply scientific understandings to designing solutions to real-world problems

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

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.

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.

6th Grade Reading

The following question is about a chart that accompanies a specific reading passage.

What is the purpose of the chart?

- A. To compare how much money actors make
- B. To show that king snakes make \$200 a day
- C. To tell that spiders earn less than dogs
- D. To reveal how many days Tank works

6th Grade Math

The following question involves using skills to determine all possible outcomes of a simple situation.

Four teams played in a basketball tournament. Each team played each of the other teams exactly once.

- Determine the total number of games played.
- Make a table, chart or diagram that shows that each team played every other team exactly once.

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

Late WASL results released
August: 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
 OSPI: www.k12.wa.us
 WASL: www.wasinfo.com