

Your Child's Progress



GRADE

K

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:

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

Expectations for the 2008-09 school year Grade Level Expectations: Grade K

Your kindergarten 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 kindergarten. To learn more about Grade Level Expectations, go to: <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>.

WRITING



- Knows that an audience exists outside of self and understands writing has different purposes
- Analyzes ideas, selects topics and adds details
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

READING



- Understands and applies concepts of print and sounds
- Expands oral language skills and gains meaningful vocabulary for reading
- Demonstrates comprehension by responding in different ways when listening to or viewing text of all kinds
- Shows interest in a variety of books

MATH



- Uses math language to explain or describe numerical and measurement ideas and information that are relevant to kindergarten students
- Understands the meaning of addition
- Uses information to solve a problem with teacher guidance
- Understands how math is used in everyday life

SCIENCE



- Begins to learn about science
- Understands that scientists observe carefully and asks questions
- Develops the skills of observing, sorting and identifying parts and begins using scientific tools to understand the natural world



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Washington Assessment of Student Learning

Students in grades kindergarten through second grade do not participate in state testing (see chart below). But it's never too early to learn about the testing system, which assesses the skills and knowledge students have already learned during a specific school year.

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.waslinfo.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.

3rd Grade Reading

The following question is based on a reading passage about the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona.

1. Which sentence best summarizes the selection?
- A. Tohono O'odham men work alone to make cactus jam.
 - B. Tohono O'odham children work hard to make cactus jam.
 - C. Tohono O'odham members work together to make cactus jam.

3rd Grade Math

The following question involves using skills from measurement.

Nalu walks to school each day. He leaves home at 8:45 a.m. and arrives at the school playground at 9:04 a.m. How many minutes does it take to walk to school?

- A. 19 minutes
- B. 29 minutes
- C. 59 minutes

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

Schools give state tests in grades 3-8 during a three-week period in the spring. Testing isn't three weeks long, however. Schools can schedule testing any time during that period.

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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