



Earning a Diploma: The Class of 2010 and Beyond

All students need a solid foundation of reading, writing and math skills for whatever career path they follow after high school. Several statewide graduation requirements are designed to ensure that students have this foundation.

For the graduating classes of 2010-2012, students must pass a state exam or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to earn a high school diploma. Some students might have already passed one or more exams of the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Beginning in spring 2010, students who have not previously passed the WASL must take the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE), a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education.

Students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the high school math HSPE, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education, **OR**, earn two math credits after 10th grade. Students must have taken the math state exam once before using any of the alternatives. In addition, the math Collection of Evidence has been eliminated until math becomes a graduation requirement for the Class of 2013.

Students in the Class of 2013 will be first to be required to pass science and math high school state exams, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education. The Class of 2013 will have an additional option to choose math end-of-course exams. For more information, please visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements>.

Washington State Graduation Requirements

(Determined when a student first enters ninth grade)

Classes of 2010-2012 (Students in grades 10-12 in 2009-10)	Class of 2013 (Students in grade 9 in 2009-10)	Class of 2014 (Students in grade 9 in 2010-11)
<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing HS WASL/HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing high school HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing high school HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MATH</p> <p>Pass math high school WASL/HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--OR--</p> <p>Earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade.*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MATH</p> <p>Pass math high school HSPE, comprehensive exam, or end-of-course exams, or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MATH</p> <p>Pass math end-of-course exams or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OTHER REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENCE</p> <p>Pass science high school HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENCE</p> <p>Pass science high school HSPE or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
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* Students must take the high school WASL/HSPE once before using a state-approved alternative.

Updated August 2009

Graduation Requirements and State Testing

Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement

- Students who pass the reading, writing and math WASL/HSPE exams earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). Students who earn a certificate will have it noted on their transcript.
- Certificate of Academic Achievement – Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the reading, writing and math WASL/HSPE exams or a Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (a state-approved alternative) in reading, writing and math.
- Certificate of Individual Achievement – Only for students in special education. Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the WASL/HSPE-Basic, WAAS-Portfolio, WAAS-DAW (Developmentally Appropriate WASL) or Locally Determined Assessment in reading, writing and math.
- Students in the classes of 2009-2012 who earn two math credits after 10th grade, BUT do not pass the math WASL or another appropriate math assessment, are still eligible to earn a diploma but they won't earn a certificate.
- A waiver system is available for students who transfer into a public high school in 11th or 12th grade from other states and countries. Students who have the skills but were unable to show it on the WASL or a state-approved alternative can file a special, unavoidable circumstance appeal. Students who are successful with an appeal will earn a diploma but not a certificate.

High school assessments

- Beginning in spring 2010, the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) will replace the high school WASL.
- Students have five state-funded opportunities during high school to take each WASL/HSPE content area: reading, writing and math. Science is not administered in August. That will change when it becomes a graduation requirement in 2013.
- Students pass with a Level 3 or 4 score.
- WASL/HSPE testing occurs in March/April and August each year. The WASL was last given in August 2009.
- Score appeal process: Parents/guardians, after reviewing their student's test, may file a score appeal with the state.
- To learn more about the state testing, please visit: <http://www.WAtesting.com>.

State-approved alternatives

- Students who have the skills but are unable to show them on the WASL/HSPE may use the CAA Options or state-approved alternatives.
- Students may access the options after taking the high school WASL/HSPE once. Students who transfer into a public high school in the 11th and 12th grade from out of state or from an in-state non-public school setting may have immediate access to the CAA Options without taking a high school assessment.
- 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.
 - Fee Waivers are available for eligible students to take the approved SAT, ACT and AP assessments.
 - 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)
- WASL/Grades 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. 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 WASL/HSPE with or without accommodations or use one of the CAA Options.
- The following options are also available:
 - WASL/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>.