

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
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STATE OF WASHINGTON

Washington Student Achievement Council
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Dear High School Juniors:

This spring you will be participating in the new Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts and mathematics. The Smarter Balanced assessments of the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP) will determine your Achievement Level and provide you with an indicator of your predicted readiness to take college-level English and mathematics courses when you begin college.

Knowing your Achievement Level (Levels 1 through 4) at the end of the eleventh grade gives you the opportunity to use your senior year to take the courses that will give you the best preparation for college and career success. You will receive your Achievement Level results on your Student Score Report during the summer. However, your school will have access to your Achievement Levels electronically within three to four weeks after the Smarter Balanced examinations take place.

A significant benefit for students who perform at Achievement Levels 3 or 4 on the Smarter Balanced tests is that you will be able to move directly into credit-bearing college-level courses (levels 100 and above) upon enrollment at any of the 34 community and technical colleges, any of the public baccalaureate institutions, and nine independent colleges in Washington. This means you'll be able to bypass traditional placement tests that are typically given when students enroll in college.

If you want to take advantage of direct placement into college-level courses, please provide a copy of your Smarter Balanced Student Score Report card once you're admitted to one of Washington's institution of higher education.

To learn more about college readiness, Common Core State Standards, and Smarter Balanced assessments visit <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-readiness>. If you have questions regarding the Smarter Balanced Achievement Levels, please talk with your English and mathematics teachers, high school counselor, or career center director.

Sincerely,

Randy I. Dorn
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Gene Sharratt
Executive Director
Washington Student Achievement Council