



Your Child's Progress

Learning standards for the 2014–15 school year

Washington has K–12 learning standards that define the knowledge and skills every student needs to be ready for career, college and life when they complete high school.

Below are brief examples of Washington's key learning goals for 4th grade.
For more complete information, visit:

www.YourChildsProgress.com

- **The Arts.** Use the principles of choreography; perform music; understand how dialogue is used in scripts; create and explain artwork.
- **Educational Technology.** Compare characteristics of native people from several regions of Washington using selected websites.
- **English Language Arts (ELA).** Read and discuss a variety of literary and nonfiction texts; analyze ideas, select topics and elaborate while writing.
- **Health and Fitness.** Set goals for healthy habits and social skills; understand consequences of behaviors.
- **Math.** Develop an understanding of equivalent fractions and addition and subtraction of fractions.
- **Science.** Explore wave patterns; analyze and interpret data from maps; learn how external features support plants and animals.
- **Social Studies.** Explore Washington's past and present, including geography, economy and government today; examine local, regional and state-wide issues and events, analyzing them from multiple perspectives.

Washington also has learning standards in **Integrated Environment and Sustainability**, **World Languages**, **Career and Technical Education** (frameworks and industry standards for middle and high school), **English Language Proficiency** (in ELA, math and science), as well as guidelines for **HIV & Sexual Health** and **Early Learning** (birth–3rd grade) that complement a well-rounded education for all students.

Special education: Students who receive services have accommodations, modifications and supports identified in their individual education plans.

English language learners: Students who are learning to speak English have language proficiency standards that help teachers plan instruction across subjects that is appropriate to each student's level of language development.

GRADE 4

Washington State Learning Goals

The Washington state Legislature has established four learning goals to provide the foundation for the development of all academic learning standards in the state:

1. Read with comprehension, write effectively, and communicate successfully in a variety of ways and settings and with a variety of audiences;
2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history, including different cultures and participation in representative government; geography; arts; and health and fitness;
3. Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and to integrate technology literacy and fluency as well as different experiences and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and
4. Understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.



Office of Superintendent
of Public Instruction
www.k12.wa.us

State Testing in Washington: Grades 3–8

Starting in spring 2015, all students in grades 3–8 will take the **Smarter Balanced** tests in English language arts (ELA) and math. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the Measurements of Student Progress (**MSP**) in science.

State testing should *never* be the sole judge of a student's academic skills and knowledge. If you have questions about your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school.

Special education: Students receiving special education services may be eligible for additional alternatives related to the testing requirements, as well as accommodations, modifications and supports identified in their individual education plans.

English language learners: Students learning to speak English in grades K–12 will take the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (**WELPA**). This assessment tests growth in reading, writing, listening and speaking knowledge and skills in English. Students who score at the Beginning, Advanced Beginning, Intermediate or Advanced levels on the WELPA qualify to receive help learning English.

Who Gets Tested and When?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires yearly testing of students in grades 3–8 and once in high school in ELA and math, and in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school in science. Washington state also requires students to pass specific tests to be eligible to graduate from high school.

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
ELA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	**
Math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	**
Science			✓			✓	*	✓	**	**
English Language Proficiency	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

* 9th graders only take EOC exams if they are taking those specific courses. Students in earlier grades may also take EOCs if they are taking those specific courses, in addition to the Smarter Balanced tests required for their grade. Students who take an EOC before 10th grade do not need to take that EOC in 10th grade.

** Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirement.

♦ Necessary only for students learning to speak English. Students test to qualify to receive support and continue to test, annually, until they reach English language proficiency.

State Testing FAQ

Why does my child need to take state tests?

State testing is required by state and federal laws. It isn't the only way to find out how a student is doing in school, but it might help identify learning issues sooner rather than later.

In high school, passing state tests, or approved alternatives, shows students have a solid foundation of reading, writing, math and science skills, no matter where they went to school or what they choose to do after they graduate.

May I view my child's test?

For test security reasons, students may not discuss the content of state tests with their friends and family. However, parents/guardians are welcome to review their child's tests after they are scored.

State Testing Windows and Reporting Timeline

ONLINE TESTING

Mar 9– June 15: Smarter Balanced window for grades 3–8 (except grade 3 ELA)

Mar 9– Apr 23: Smarter Balanced window for grade 3 ELA

Apr 20– June 5: MSP Science window for grades 5 and 8

PAPER/PENCIL TESTING

Feb 2– Mar 13: WELPA (English language learners in K–12)

Mar 9– May 20: Smarter Balanced window for grades 3–8 (except grade 3 ELA)

Mar 9– Apr 15: Smarter Balanced window for grade 3 ELA

Apr 20– May 19: MSP Science window for grades 5 and 8

SCORE REPORTS SENT TO DISTRICTS

Mid-May: Smarter Balanced grade 3 ELA

June: Smarter Balanced (online version); WELPA

July: Smarter Balanced (paper/pencil version)

Sept: MSP Science; EOCs

What Does a State Test Score Mean?

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.

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.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building
P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

www.YourChildsProgress.com