



Earning a Diploma: The Class of 2009 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 2009-2012, students must pass the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading and writing, a state-approved alternative to the WASL or an assessment for students in special education. Students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the high school math WASL, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education, **OR**, continue to earn math credits and annually take an appropriate math assessment until they graduate.

Students in the Class of 2013 will be first to be required to pass the science and math high school WASLs, 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. Beginning in 2014, the existing high school math WASL will be replaced by math end-of-course exams, which will be required for graduation. For more information on graduation issues, please visit:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/default.aspx>.

Washington State Graduation Requirements

(Determined when a student first enters ninth grade)

Classes of 2009-2012 (Students in grades 9-12 in 2008-09)	Class of 2013 (Students in grade 9 in 2009-10)	Class of 2014 (Students in grade 9 in 2010-11)
<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p>MATH Pass math high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* --OR-- Earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade AND retake the WASL or a state-approved math assessment annually. <i>(Students are required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p>MATH Pass math high school WASL, 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>MATH 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>SCIENCE Pass science high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p>SCIENCE Pass science high school WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>	<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>	<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements.</p>

* Students must take the high school WASL once before using a state-approved alternative unless they are newly enrolled in 11th and 12th grade.

Updated September 2008

Learn More About Graduation Requirements and the WASL

About the Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement

- Students who pass the reading, writing and math WASLs 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 WASLs 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-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 and annually take an appropriate math assessment, 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.

About the high school WASL

- Students have five state-funded opportunities during high school to take each WASL 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 testing occurs in March/April and August each year.
- Score appeal process: Parents/guardians, after reviewing their student's test, may file a score appeal with the state.
- To learn more about the WASL, please visit: <http://www.wasinfo.com>.

About state-approved alternatives to the WASL

- Students who have the skills but are unable to show them on the WASL may use the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options, or state-approved alternatives.
- Students may access the options after taking the high school WASL once. Students who transfer into a public high school from out of state and countries in the 11th and 12th grade, and students who transfer into a public high school in the 12th grade from an in-state private school or home-based instruction (under specific circumstances), may have immediate access to the CAA Options without taking the high school WASL.
- 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. PSAT – As of Aug. 31, 2008, the PSAT is not an approved alternative.
 - 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. 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/default.aspx>.

About assessments for students in special education

- Students in special education may take the high school WASL with or without accommodations or use one of the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options.
- The following options are also available:
 - WASL-Basic – Students take the high school WASL – 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 WASL (WAAS-DAW) – Students in grades 11 and 12 only take the WASL – with or without accommodations – at a grade level that best matches their abilities. Students pass the DAW by earning Proficient (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>.