



Alternatives to Passing State Exams: Certificate of Academic Achievement Options

Students who have the skills and knowledge but can't demonstrate those skills on state tests can use the CAA Options, or state-approved alternatives, to meet graduation requirements in reading, writing and math.

Note: Students must have a valid score on the WASL/HSPE/math EOC before attempting any of the following alternatives:

Collection of Evidence (COE)

There are new eligibility requirements for the collection of evidence beginning in the 2011-12 school year. Visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/CollectionofEvidence.aspx> for specific rules.

- **Through the Class of 2012:** Students compile a set of classroom work samples in reading or writing with the help of teachers. Samples must meet state guidelines and state panel review, and demonstrate proficiency in that topic comparable to the proficiency tested on the HSPE. Scores are released 60 days after submittal deadlines. (Seniors who submit in June will not receive their diploma in June.)
- **Class of 2013 and 2014:** Students compile a set of classroom work samples in reading, writing and math with the help of teachers. The math COE will be available for students in the class of 2013 beginning in 2012-13. **Note:** The science COE will debut beginning with the Class of 2015.

GPA Comparison (12th graders only)

- Students in 12th grade must have an overall GPA of 3.2 or higher. 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 HSPE. This option is not considered an assessment. **Note:** Science is added to this alternative beginning with the Class of 2013.

College-Entrance Exams/AP Classes

- **Passing scores on one or more of the national tests:** Minimum acceptable scores are:

Reading	SAT: 350	ACT: 13
Writing	SAT: 380	ACT: 15
Math	SAT: 470	ACT: 19

- **A score of 3 or higher on Advanced Placement tests:** Those tests are:

Reading	English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, U.S. history, world history, U.S. government and politics, comparative government and politics
Writing	English language and composition
Math	Calculus or statistics



Students **through the Class of 2012** may use the WASL/HSPE or any alternative to meet graduation requirements for each content area – reading, writing and math – to earn their Certificate of Academic Achievement and their high school diploma. Example: A student can use a successful WASL/HSPE in reading, a successful Collection of Evidence in writing and an AP test in math. **Note:** Students in the Class of 2013 and beyond must earn their CAA to graduate in reading, writing and math. Science is added to the requirement for the Class of 2015.

Transfer students: A student who transfers into Washington public high schools in 11th or 12th grade from out of state or an in-state non-public setting (home school or private school) has immediate access to the CAA Options and does not have to take our state exams. If a student has already passed an approved exam in their previous state, he/she can use those results. To learn more, visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WaiverAppeals/TransferWaiver.aspx>.

2012 State Testing Information

Test Booklets

The state will automatically send Pre-Identification HSPE test booklets to school districts for every 11th- and 12th-grader who has yet to pass a reading and writing state exam. School districts or families do not need to order booklets or register these students. As in years past, test booklets are sent for every 10th-grader. Any student from 7th grade through 12th grade will receive a math end-of-course test booklet if they are taking algebra I and/or geometry, or integrated math equivalents.

Math and the Class of 2012

Students in the Class of 2012 are the last to be able to earn two credits of math after 10th grade instead of passing a state math exam. They must have taken the math WASL/HSPE/EOC once before accessing this option. A student cannot be eligible to graduate without having attempted the math WASL/HSPE/EOC. Please see the math graduation requirements on Page 5 for further clarification or “[Meeting the Math Graduation Requirement](#)” handout.

State Testing Days

All students statewide must take the high school reading and writing HSPEs on the same days. Students who miss, for example, the reading HSPE will not be able to make up any of the testing they missed. The next HSPE testing opportunity following spring 2012 is Aug. 14-16, 2011. School districts set the schedules for end-of-course testing in math in January/February and math and science in May/June.