

News Release

Everett Public Schools
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District advice: Watch for your high school test scores and keep taking math classes

Amidst the flurry of the state's preliminary state test score release today, Everett Public Schools officials are reminding parents that only one set of scores matter. "The score for your student we mail home next week to each family is the score set to pay attention to," says Terry Edwards, the district's Executive Director of Curriculum.

"I have these suggestions for parents and students today," says Edwards. "Check your score report next week. If you didn't pass a WASL test, register for summer school, and register to retake that WASL in August. Remember to graduate, you must continue taking the WASL test, and if you have not passed the math test, you must earn a math credit every year you are in high school. No matter when students pass the WASL in Everett, the district requires three high school math credits to graduate."

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) tests were given to high school students in March and April this year. Students scheduled to graduate a year from now, in 2008, must have passing scores in reading and writing. If they didn't meet standard this year, they have another chance to take the test this summer in August, but they must register to do so by July 8.

"Knowing there was a short turn-around time to register for summer school and for the August WASL retake, the state has been quick to score the March and April tests for 10th and 11th graders so that we can get that information to families," notes Edwards.

However, it is that speedy turnaround that creates confusion about statewide and district-level test scores. The state is operating with a data base that is not yet available to districts. "We don't have, for example, WASL scores for students who took the test in another district but are enrolled here now," said Edwards. "That student probably appears in our data base as a 'zero' because there is no score, but that score is in the state's data. Individual school districts will not know exact results until next fall when the state sends complete WASL scoring data — including science test scores which are not a part of the report this month."

"Preliminarily, we think our overall results are similar to the state's. We did well in reading and writing and are facing the same struggles that other districts are having with math. We believe we have about 85% of our students passing reading and writing WASL tests and about half of them passing the math WASL."

Those districtwide percentages do not matter, however, to the individual students getting their WASL scores next week. On Wednesday the district will mail individual score reports to 10th and 11th graders that tell students which WASL tests they successfully completed and which they need to retake in August. Included with the scores is information about summer school and instructions for registering to retake the WASL.

We are offering free summer school help for qualifying students needing to get ready for August WASL, said Edwards. There is no cost for taking the WASL again either.

To register for summer school:

www.everett.k12.wa.us Click on summer school or call 425-385-4070

To register for WASL retakes:

www.k12.wa.us/waslregistration or call 1-866-400-WASL

This registration requires a State Student Identifier number found in each WASL score report being sent home with students on June 13, 2007.