

News Release

Everett Public Schools
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High school freshmen and juniors have deadline to register for WASL

For all high school freshmen who want to take the WASL a year before it is required of them and for all juniors who have WASL sections yet to pass, there is just a one-month window to register for this spring's high school WASL.

This week every ninth- and 11th-grader in the district received a personal letter explaining how to register for the WASL. Online and telephone registration opened on January 9, 2007, and shuts down just one month later on February 9, 2007. Sophomores, who are required to take the test this year, do not have to register themselves because the state is registering all Washingtonsophomores for the April and March tests.

Last year more ninth-graders in Everett Public Schools took the high school WASL tests a year early than did any other district in the state. That was no accident, and the district plans the same emphasis this year. We are encouraging every family with a freshman to consider the benefits of taking the tests early, said Terry Edwards, Executive Director of Curriculum Alignment and Implementation. Although the high school WASL is a measure of what 10th-graders should know and be able to do, we know that some ninth-graders are ready.

The district believes strongly in the advantages for ninth-grade students of taking the high school WASL early, and Superintendent Whitehead will use the district's telephone calling system to encourage their participation. Many of our freshman students are ready for the tests this year, Whitehead notes.

Families should watch for those letters this week, emphasized Edwards. If families with ninth- and 11th-graders don't get a letter by Friday, January 12, they should call their high school counselor. Translation is available for families who do not speak English.

WASL backgrounder

- Students graduating in 2007 are not required to meet standard on the WASL tests.
- Meeting standard on WASL sections of reading, writing, and math is a state graduation requirement for the graduating classes of 2008 and 2009.
- Meeting standard on WASL sections of reading, writing, math and science is a state graduation requirement for the graduating classes of 2010 and beyond.
- The 2007 legislative session might result in some WASL requirement changes. However, those, if they happen, will not be final before spring, and all Washingtonschool districts are operating under the existing WASL graduation requirements.
- Every high school student is given five opportunities to take the WASL tests to meet standard or to improve a previously earned score.
- High school transcripts do not report a student's WASL score; transcripts do record whether a student met or did not meet standard on WASL sections.
- Ninth-grade is the first year students may take the high school WASL. This is a year earlier than students are required to take the test. The early ninth-grade option counts as one of a student's five opportunities.
- All state 10th-graders are required to take the WASL as 10th-graders unless they previously took the test early as ninth-graders and met standard on reading, writing, and/or math. 10th-grade students must retake each section for which they did not meet standard as ninth-graders.
- 10th-grade students who need to take the WASL are being automatically enrolled for the test through the state WASL records system. 10th-grade students do not need to register themselves for tests or retakes in March and April.

- Ninth- and 11th-graders must self-register to take the WASL — either online <http://www.k12.wa.us/> or by phone 1 -866-400-WASL (9275).
- This year's 11th-graders who are graduating in 2008 and who have not yet met standard on reading, writing, or math must take those test sections prior to graduation.
- WASL tests are given on the same dates at every high school in the state. In March and April of 2007 those dates are:

MARCH 2007 high school WASL schedule	
Writing	March 13, 14, 15 (must participate all days to earn a score)
Reading	March 19 and March 20 (must participate both days to earn a score)
APRIL 2007 high school WASL schedule	
Mathematics	April 17 and April 18 (must participate both days to earn a score)
Science	April 19 and April 20 (must participate both days to earn a score)

- Students graduating in 2007, 2008 and 2009 will have their WASL results back by June.
- Students graduating in 2010 will have their WASL results back in September.
- The next opportunities to take the WASL for the classes of 2008 and 2009 are in August of 2007.
- The next opportunities to take the WASL for the class of 2010 are in the spring of 2008.
- More information about WASL is available on the [OSPI Web site](http://www.k12.wa.us/): <http://www.k12.wa.us/>