# Earning a Diploma: The Class of 2011 and Beyond

All students need a solid foundation of reading, writing and math skills for whatever path they follow after high school, whether it be college or career. Our state graduation requirements are designed to ensure that students have this foundation.

We encourage families and students to meet regularly with their school counselors to ensure they are on track for graduation. To be eligible to graduate in Washington, high school students must: pass specific state exams; earn all required state and local credits; and successfully complete a high school and beyond plan and the culminating project.

**Classes of 2011 and 2012:** Students must pass a state exam, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education in **reading** and **writing** in order to earn a high school diploma. Students can meet the state's **math** requirement by passing the high school math exam **OR** by earning two math credits after $10^{th}$ grade.

**Class of 2013 and beyond:** Beginning with the Class of 2013, students will be required to pass the **reading**, **writing**, **math** and **science** high school state exams, state-approved alternatives or assessments for students in special education. Students will need to pass two **math** end-of-course exams. The option to earn two math credits after $10^{th}$ grade is not available.

For more information, speak to your counselor or visit: www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements.

## Washington State Graduation Requirements
(Graduating class is determined when a student first enters ninth grade)

| Classes of 2011-2012<br>(Students in grades 11-12 in 2010-11) | Class of 2013 and Beyond<br>(Students entering grade 9 in 2009-10 or after) |
|---|---|
| **READING AND WRITING**<br>**Pass** reading and writing HS WASL/HSPE or assessment for students in special education.<br>—OR—<br>**Pass** reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* | **READING AND WRITING**<br>**Pass** reading and writing HSPE or assessment for students in special education.<br>—OR—<br>**Pass** reading and writing Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* |
| **MATH**<br>**Pass** math high school WASL/HSPE, end-of-course exam (beginning in spring 2011) or assessment for students in special education.<br>—OR—<br>**Pass** math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*<br>—OR—<br>**Earn** two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade.* | **MATH**<br>**Pass** two math end-of-course exams or assessment for students in special education.<br>—OR—<br>**Pass** math Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* |
| | **SCIENCE**<br>**Pass** science HSPE, end-of-course exam (beginning in 2012) or assessment for students in special education.<br>—OR—<br>**Pass** Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* |
| **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**<br>**Meet** all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements. | **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**<br>**Meet** all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and local credit requirements. |

* Students must take each high school state exam once before using a state-approved alternative.

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# Graduation Requirements and State Testing

## Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement

- Students in the classes of **2011** and **2012** who pass the reading, writing and math WASL/HSPE exams earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). Students in the class of **2013** and beyond must pass reading, writing, math and science to earn a CAA or CIA. Students who earn a certificate will have it noted on their transcript.
- Certificate of Academic Achievement – A requirement for graduation beginning in **2013**. Students can still earn it by passing all four state exams or a state-approved alternative in reading, writing and math.
- Certificate of Individual Achievement – Only for students in special education. A requirement for graduation beginning in **2013**. Students can still earn it by passing the HSPE-Basic, WAAS-Portfolio, WAAS-DAPE (Developmentally Appropriate Proficiency Exam) or Locally Determined Assessment in reading, writing, math and science.
- Students in the classes of **2011** and **2012** who earn two math credits after 10th grade, BUT do not pass the math WASL/HSPE or another appropriate math assessment, are still eligible to earn a diploma but they won't earn a certificate.
- Students who transfer into a public school in 11th or 12th grade from another state or an in-state non-public setting can seek a waiver.

## High school assessments

- Beginning in spring 2010, the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) replaced the high school WASL.
- Beginning in spring 2011, the math HSPE will be replaced by two end-of-course exams in algebra I and geometry, or integrated equivalents.
- Students have five state-funded opportunities during high school to take each WASL/HSPE content area.
- Students pass with a Level 3 or 4 score.
- Score appeal process: Parents/guardians, after reviewing their student's high school test, may file a score appeal with the state.
- To learn more about the state testing, please visit: http://www.WAtesting.com.

## State-approved alternatives

- Students who have the skills but are unable to show them on the WASL/HSPE may use the CAA Options or state-approved alternatives.
- Students may access the options after taking the high school WASL/HSPE once.
- 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.
  - ➤ 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)
  - ➤ GPA 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/HSPE. 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.

## Assessments for students in special education

- Students in special education may take the high school WASL/HSPE with or without accommodations or use one of the CAA Options.
- The following options are also available:
  - ➤ HSPE-Basic – Students take the high school WASL/HSPE – 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 Proficiency Exam (WAAS-DAPE) – Students in grades 11 and 12 only take the WASL/HSPE – with or without accommodations – at a grade level that best matches their abilities. Students pass by earning 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.