



**GRADE**

**6**

# Your Child's Progress

## Learning goals for the 2010-11 school year

### Learning Standards: **Grade 6**

Your sixth-grade student has specific learning goals in every subject. Washington has learning standards that define the knowledge and skills students should gain in each subject starting with kindergarten. Each teacher is responsible not only for the learning standards in the grade they are currently teaching, but also for those in previous grades. Below are examples of key learning goals for sixth grade. To learn more about our state learning standards, go to: [www.k12.wa.us/standards](http://www.k12.wa.us/standards).

### Washington State Learning Goals

The four state learning goals below provided the foundation for the development of the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs), which help measure progress and accountability:

#### WRITING



- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

#### READING



- Adjusts reading purpose, pace and strategies according to difficulty and/or type of text
- Reads, discusses, reflects and responds, using evidence from text to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text
- Reads for pleasure and chooses books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme or author

#### MATH



- Solves a wide variety of problems that involve the numbers they see every day — whole numbers, fractions and decimals
- Develops understanding of how letters are used to represent numbers in math — an important foundation for algebraic thinking
- Extends mental math skills (having learned addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) with whole numbers, fractions and decimals

#### SCIENCE



- Students learn to think critically and logically to make connections between prior science knowledge and evidence produced from their investigations
- Learns to measure, record and calculate the average speed of objects and to tabulate and graph the results
- Learns how energy and matter interact in various settings

1. Read with comprehension, write with skill and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings
2. Know and apply core concepts and principles of math, science, the arts, social studies, health and fitness
3. Think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems
4. Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities



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# State Testing in Washington: Grades 3-8

Most students in grades 3-8 will take the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). About one percent of students participate in the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS), an equally challenging program for some students in special education.

The MSP name conveys the goal of the test: to *measure student progress*. State testing should never be the sole judge of a student's academic skills and knowledge. A student's entire academic performance should always be considered. If you have questions about your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school.

Please visit [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com) to learn more about state testing.

## State Testing FAQ

### What types of questions appear on state tests?

The reading, math and science MSP includes multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Four-point essay questions have been eliminated on reading, math and science tests. This change allows students to show they are able to solve the problems, while not being scored on their writing ability. We have a writing MSP test in 4th and 7th grades.

## GRADE

# 6

### State Testing and Reporting Timeline

<b>May 2- May 19:</b>	MSP paper/pencil testing window for grades 3-8*
<b>May 2- June 3:</b>	MSP online testing window for grades 4-8
<b>By mid Sept.:</b>	All MSP reports sent home

\* Testing is 1 day per subject for reading and math

### What Does a MSP Score Mean?

Students receive a score for each MSP test taken. Scores are based on how an individual student performed, so you won't find percentiles often provided by other standardized tests. Scores fall into one of four levels:

- Level 4 Exceeds State Standards:** Represents advanced mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 3 Meets State Standards:** Represents mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 2 Below State Standard:** Represents some mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.
- Level 1 Well-Below State Standard:** Represents little to no mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.

## The Move to Online Testing

Online, or computer-based, testing debuted in Washington in spring 2010 in grades 6-8 in reading and math. The state's goal is for the majority of grades and subjects to be tested via computers in all school districts by 2012.

In spring 2011, the MSP will be offered online in grades 4-8 in reading and math, and grades 5 and 8 in science. High school will not begin online testing until spring 2012.

Feasibility studies are being conducted for online testing in all third-grade subjects. We are also piloting an online 7th grade writing test in spring 2011.

## Who Gets Tested and When?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires yearly testing of students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and math, and in three grades in science (grades 5, 8 and 10 in Washington). Our state also tests students in writing (grades 4, 7 and 10). Our state has also moved to online testing.

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
<b>Reading</b>	✓	✓■	✓■	✓■	✓■	✓■	NT	✓●	<i>Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirement.</i>	
<b>Math</b>	✓	✓■	✓■	✓■	✓■	✓■	✓	✓		
<b>Writing</b>		✓			✓●		NT	✓●		
<b>Science</b>			✓■			✓■	NT	✓●		

- Offered online in spring 2011
- Offered online in spring 2012

NT Subject not tested (9th graders only take end-of-course math exams)



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### For more information

OSPI: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

MSP/HSPE: [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com)

Questions: [StateTesting@k12.wa.us](mailto:StateTesting@k12.wa.us)