



GRADE

9

Your Child's Progress

Learning goals for the 2010-11 school year

Learning Standards: **Grade 9**

Your ninth-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 ninth grade. To learn more about our state learning standards, go to: 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



- Shows awareness of vocabulary and comprehension strategies used, especially when encountering difficult text and/or reading for a specific purpose
- Shows greater ability to make connections and adjust understandings as knowledge is gained
- Continue to increase academic vocabulary

MATH (ALGEBRA 1)



- Uses functions to model various situations and solve problems
- Builds and expands understanding of computation by using arithmetic operations and properties to include the symbolic language of algebra
- Uses algebra and the properties of number systems to develop valid math arguments, prove conjectures and find counterexamples to refute false statements, using correct math language, terms and symbols

SCIENCE



- Extends and refines understanding of the nature of inquiry and ability to formulate questions, propose hypotheses, and design, conduct and report on investigations
- Calculates average speed, velocity and acceleration, and develops understanding of forces due to gravitational and electrical attraction
- Learns the fundamental concepts of energy

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



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
www.k12.wa.us

State Testing in Washington: High School

Most students in 10th grade and above take the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). About one percent of students participate in the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS), an equally challenging program for some students in special education.

The HSPE name conveys the goal of the test: to *measure a student's proficiency of basic skills*. Students in the class of 2013 and beyond must pass all four state tests: reading, writing, math and science. Ninth graders do not test in reading, writing and science, but beginning in spring 2011, can take an end-of-course math exam in algebra I or geometry.

Please visit 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 HSPE 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. The HSPE writing test requires students to answer to questions.

GRADE

9

State Graduation Requirements

Students should familiarize themselves with state graduation requirements as early as possible. The requirements are:

- Earn high school credits
- Pass state exams
- Complete a culminating project
- Complete a high school and beyond plan

For more info, please visit www.k12.wa.us and click on Graduation Requirements

What Does a HSPE Score Mean?

Students receive a score for each HSPE taken. 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
Reading	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	NT	✓ ●	Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirement.	
Math	✓	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓ ■	✓	✓		
Writing		✓			✓ ●		NT	✓ ●		
Science			✓ ■			✓ ■	NT	✓ ●		

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

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



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building
P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

For more information

OSPI: www.k12.wa.us

MSP/HSPE: www.WAtesting.com

Questions: StateTesting@k12.wa.us