



Your Student's Progress

Learning standards for the 2019–20 school year

Washington has K–12 learning standards that define the knowledge and skills every student needs to be prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement when they complete high school. Below are brief examples of Washington's key learning goals for 9th grade.

Key Learning Goals for Ninth Grade

The Arts – Refine performance skills; perform, compose, and analyze music; write one-act scripts; become visually literate thinker and creator. Design and document tools and methods for collaboration on a project to increase connectivity of people in different cultures and career fields.

Computer Science – Design and document tools and methods for collaboration on a project to increase connectivity of people in different cultures and career fields.

Educational Technology – Identify and analyze websites with opposing points of view.

English Language Arts (ELA) – Analyze complex characters and how an author's ideas are developed; used technology to produce writing projects.

Financial Education – Develop a system for keeping and using financial records. Investigate checking, savings, and credit card accounts that financial institutions provide.

Health and Physical Education– Develop a personal health/physical education plan and health-literacy skills that will continue through adulthood.

Math– High schools students typically take algebra I, geometry, and algebra II. They model real-world phenomena, compare simple and complex functions, and learn about congruence, similarity and symmetry through geometric transformations.

Science– Analyze major global challenges and possible solutions; develop and use models; plan and conduct investigations; analyze data.

Social Studies– Explore major developments that have shaped the modern world, including human rights, revolution, democracy, and economics.

Washington also has learning standards in Integrated Environment and Sustainability, World Languages, Career and Technical Education (frameworks and industry standards for middle and high school), English Language Proficiency (in ELA, math, and science), as well as guidelines for HIV & Sexual Health and Early Learning (birth–3rd grade) that complement a well-rounded education for all students.

Special education: Students who receive services have accommodations, modifications, and supports identified in their individual education plans.

English learners: Students who are learning to speak English have language proficiency standards that help teachers plan instruction across subjects that is appropriate to each student's level of language development.

GRADE 9

Washington State Learning Goals

The [Washington State Legislature](#) has established four learning goals to provide the foundation for the development of all academic learning standards in the state:

1. Read with comprehension, write effectively, and communicate successfully in a variety of ways and settings and with a variety of audiences;
2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history, including different cultures and participation in representative government; geography; the arts; and health and fitness;
3. Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and to integrate technology literacy and fluency as well as different experiences and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and
4. Understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.



Office of Superintendent
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State Testing in Washington

Federal law requires yearly testing of students in grades 3–8 and once in high school in English language arts (ELA) and math, and in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school in science. Most high school students will take the **Smarter Balanced** ELA and math and **Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS)** to satisfy testing requirements.

The tests may be taken with or without tools, supports, or accommodations. While Washington state does not require students to pass specific tests to be eligible to graduate from high school, Washington students need to show their readiness for their next step after high school and to signal employers and post-secondary education/training institutions about a student’s readiness for that step. The Washington State Legislature provided students with multiple pathways to graduation by passing House Bill (HB) 1599.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may take the state alternate assessment, the **Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement (WA-AIM)** in ELA, math, and science if documented in the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).

State testing should *never* be the sole judge of a student’s academic skills and knowledge. If you have questions about your child’s learning, please contact your child’s teacher or school.

Students learning to speak English in grades K–12 will take the **English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)**. This assessment measures English language skills and annual growth in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students who receive a proficiency level of Emerging or Progressing on ELPA21 qualify to receive English language program support services.

Tests by Grade Level for 2019–20

	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
ELA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Science			✓			✓			✓	

Notes:

- WA-AIM ELA and math will follow the general education test and be administered in the 10th grade. WA-AIM science will remain in grade 11.
- The ELPA21 is necessary for students learning to speak English. Students test to qualify to receive support. They continue to test annually until they reach English language proficiency.

State Testing Windows

Testing is scheduled within the windows listed below. Contact your local school district to find out which dates your student will be testing.

STATE TESTING WINDOWS

Feb 3–Mar 27: ELPA21

OSPI provides score reports for all tests listed above. Contact your local school district for more information.

What Does a State Test Score Mean?

- Level **4** **Exceeds Achievement Standard:**
Demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in a subject.
- Level **3** **Meets Achievement Standard:**
Demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills in a subject.
- Level **2** **Nearly Meets Achievement Standard:**
May require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in a subject.
- Level **1** **Does Not Meet Achievement Standard:**
Needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in a subject.

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