

**Washington**  
**Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies**

<p><i>State exit exam policy</i></p>	<p>The High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) measures the proficiency of students in high school and serves as the state’s exit exam for reading and writing. The End-of-Course (EOC) exam measure the proficiency of students in high school and serves as the state’s exit exam for mathematics. Students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 must pass the HSPE or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to be eligible to graduate. Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 must pass reading, writing, and one math end-of-course exam in order to graduate. Beginning in 2015, students will need to pass five exit exams: HSPE reading, HSPE writing, Algebra 1 EOC, geometry EOC, and biology EOC.</p>
<p>Type of test</p>	<p>HSPE= comprehensive standards-based EOC = end-of-course standards-based</p>
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>The purpose of the exam is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine prospective high school graduates’ knowledge and skill levels relative to those needed for entry-level employment and postsecondary education</li> <li>• Determine prospective high school graduates’ mastery of the state curriculum</li> <li>• Encourage districts and schools to identify and serve students at risk of academic failure</li> <li>• Provide data to state policymakers on student attainment of state education goals to inform education policy decisions</li> <li>• Increase alignment of local curriculum and programs of instruction with state education standards</li> <li>• Promote equity of opportunity across all student groups</li> <li>• Meet a state mandate</li> </ul>
<p>Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons</p>	<p>Yes. Due to budget reductions the state had to limit students to one math EOC (either algebra or geometry). The state also had to reduce reimbursements to schools for assisting students in building their Collections of Evidence (an alternative to the exit exam for students who did not meet standards) beginning in spring 2011, and will further constrain the use of this alternative in the 2011-12 school year.</p>

Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	Beginning in spring 2011, students in grades 7-12 began taking end-of-course math exams. The state is moving to end-of-course exams so students can be tested on the knowledge and skills they have gained from a specific course rather than on a comprehensive test like the HSPE, which assesses overall knowledge. In spring 2012, students will be offered an end-of-course exam in biology.
Year first administered	HSPE—2010 End-of-course—2011
Year diplomas first withheld	<p>Students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 must pass the HSPE or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to be eligible to graduate.</p> <p>End-of-course exams for high school math began in spring 2011 as required by state law <a href="#">RCW 28A.655.066</a>. These EOC exams will replace the math HSPE and will be given within the last three weeks of the school year. The end-of-course exams, based on the revised K-12 Mathematics Learning Standards, are available in Algebra 1/Integrated Math I and Geometry/Integrated Math II. These “end-of-course” exams will be given to students in grades 7-12 who are taking those respective classes.</p> <p>In spring 2012, students taking biology will participate in an end-of-course exam as directed by the 2010 <a href="#">Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6444</a>, section 513 (3). Students not in biology will take a Biology Makeup Exam. Students in the classes of 2013 and beyond must pass a science exam in order to graduate. Those students can pass the science HSPE in spring or summer 2010, or the biology EOC or EOC makeup exam to meet the requirement.</p>
Subjects tested on exam	HSPE— reading, writing, science (2011) EOC — math, science (2012)
Subjects required for graduation	Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 must pass exams in reading, writing, and one end-of-course math exam. Science is no longer required through the class of 2014. Beginning with the class of 2015, students must pass reading, writing, two end-of-course math exams and a biology end-of-course exam.

Grade exam first administered	Reading and writing HSPE is first given in Grade 10. EOCs are given when the student takes the class, regardless of grade (6-12).
Grade(s) exam aligned to	10 <sup>th</sup> grade
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Two per year
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Two per year
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	The U.S. Department of Education has agreed that the first-year math EOC (Algebra 1/Integrated 1) will be Washington's 10 <sup>th</sup> grade AYP exam and that students who have already completed the year 1 EOC courses, can substitute a year 2 EOC (Geometry or Integrated 2) for AYP purposes.
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	Yes
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	No
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	<p>Yes. There are three alternate paths to graduation. These state-approved alternatives are called Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Collection of Evidence</a> Students compile a set of classroom work samples with the help of a teacher. Collections for students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs can include work from their CTE program and other classes.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <a href="#">GPA Comparison</a> A student's grades in English courses and/or math courses are compared with the grades of students who took the same courses AND passed the HSPE/EOC. This option is available to students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Advanced Placement</a> and <a href="#">College Admission Test Scores</a> Students may use their scores on the SAT reading and math reasoning tests, ACT reading and math tests, and specified Advanced Placement examinations to show they have key skills.</li> </ol>												
<p>Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation</p>	<p>State education agency assessment staff verifies applications submitted by local education agencies.</p> <p>Students who meet the following criteria are eligible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collection of Evidence Students who have taken the WASL or HSPE/EOC at least once and who have not met standard in reading or writing.</li> <li>2. GPA Comparison This option is available to students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who have a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher across all courses.</li> <li>3. Advanced Placement and College Admission Test Scores Students who have taken one of these tests and met or exceeded the required score may complete a score verification form, have it signed by a school official, and send the application and the test score report to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).</li> </ol>												
<p>Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="800 1195 1087 1227">Class of 2011</th> <th data-bbox="1087 1195 1360 1227">Reading</th> <th data-bbox="1360 1195 1633 1227">Writing</th> <th data-bbox="1633 1195 1917 1227">Math</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="800 1227 1087 1336">Collection of Evidence</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1227 1360 1336">2 (0%)</td> <td data-bbox="1360 1227 1633 1336">1(0%)</td> <td data-bbox="1633 1227 1917 1336">2 (0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="800 1336 1087 1404">GPA Comparison</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1336 1360 1404">21 (.03%)</td> <td data-bbox="1360 1336 1633 1404">10 (.01%)</td> <td data-bbox="1633 1336 1917 1404">36 (.05%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class of 2011	Reading	Writing	Math	Collection of Evidence	2 (0%)	1(0%)	2 (0%)	GPA Comparison	21 (.03%)	10 (.01%)	36 (.05%)
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Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners	No. All ELL students must participate in all state testing scheduled for their grades regardless of the number of years they have been in the U.S. The only exception is students who are in their first year of enrollment in U.S. schools. These students are not required to participate in reading or writing tests, but must take the math and science exams. In addition to participating in state testing, ELL students must take annually the <a href="#">Washington Language Proficiency Test II (WLPT-II)</a> in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.				
Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	Not applicable				
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities	Yes, students receiving special education in grades 11 and 12 can take the Developmentally Appropriate Proficiency Exam (DAPE) if specified by their IEP team. The DAPE is the state's general assessment from a lower grade span, either 3-5 or 6-8, as specified by the IEP team.				
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	Reading DAPE: 1,322 (1.81%) Writing DAPE: 469 (.64%) Math DAPE: 2,219 (3.04%)				
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	Some state universities consider WASL or HSPE/EOC results when making admissions decisions; however, specific information on these considerations is not available from the state.				
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	Unknown to the state education agency				

Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?	Unknown to the state education agency
Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?	Unknown to the state education agency
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	<a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/HSPE_SupplementalSlides_2011.pdf">http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/HSPE_SupplementalSlides_2011.pdf</a>
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Washington has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Washington is a member of SMARTER Balanced.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	Not yet determined
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Not likely; waiting for SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium 2015
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Not likely; waiting for SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium 2015

Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	Probably, if budgets allow.
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	Not yet determined
Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam	Not yet determined