



## The WASL and the High School Diploma

All students need a solid foundation of reading, writing and math skills for whatever they plan to do after high school. Several statewide graduation requirements help make sure students have this foundation. Recently, state lawmakers made changes to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) graduation requirement, including postponing the passing of math and science until 2013.

For the graduating classes of 2008-2012, students must pass the reading and writing WASL, a state-approved alternative to the WASL or an assessment for students in special education. Students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the math WASL, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education, OR, they can continue to earn math credits until they graduate. Students who pass the reading, writing and math assessments earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or Certificate of Individual Achievement and a high school diploma. Students who fulfill the math requirement by earning math credits do not receive a certificate but do earn a diploma.

This delay for math and science gives the school system time to make any needed changes to the state's learning standards, provide better curriculum choices for schools, review the assessments and provide professional development for teachers. It is not a retreat from the skills and knowledge every student needs. For more information: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/default.aspx>.

### Washington State Graduation Requirements

(Determined when a student enters ninth grade)

Class of 2008 (Students in grade 11 in 2006-07)	Classes of 2009-2012 (Students in grades 7-10 in 2006-07)	Classes of 2013 and Beyond (Students in grades 6 and below in 2006-07)
<p><b>READING AND WRITING</b></p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p><b>READING AND WRITING</b></p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p><b>READING AND WRITING</b></p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p><b>MATH</b></p> <p>Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Earn one math credit (or career and technical course equivalent) after 11<sup>th</sup> grade <b>AND</b> retake the WASL or an approved math assessment one more time. <i>(Student required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p><b>MATH</b></p> <p>Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10<sup>th</sup> grade <b>AND</b> retake the WASL or an approved math assessment annually. <i>(Student required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p><b>MATH AND SCIENCE</b></p> <p>Pass math and science High School WASL or assessment for students in special education.</p> <p>--OR--</p> <p>Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p><b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and all state and local credit requirements.</p>	<p><b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and all state and local credit requirements. <i>(The State Board of Education will soon increase the number of math credits all students must earn from two to three credits.)</i></p>	<p><b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Meet all other state and school district graduation requirements: Culminating Project, High School and Beyond Plan and all state and local credit requirements. <i>(The State Board of Education will soon increase the number of math credits all students must earn from two to three credits.)</i></p>

\* Students must take the High School WASL at least once before using one of the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options.