

WHAT IS STATE TESTING AT THE HIGH SCHOOLS?

[State Testing 2012](#)

High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)

The HSPE measures the proficiency of students in high school and serves as the state's exit exam in reading and writing. Its name conveys the goal of the test: to measure a student's proficiency of basic skills. In math, students take an end-of-course math exam in either algebra or geometry. This spring, all students enrolled in a biology class, as well as all sophomores, will be taking an end-of-course exam in biology.

Students in the class of **2012** must pass the reading and writing exams or a state-approved alternative in order to be eligible to graduate. Seniors must have either passed a HSPE or end-of-course math test, or attempted one of these tests and not passed, but earned two math credits since their sophomore year.

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.

2012 High School Testing Window

March 13-14 Grade 10 - **Writing** and Grades 11-12 for students that have not passed

March 15 **Grade 10 - Reading** and Grades 11-12 for students that have not passed

May 21-June 7 Grades 9 – 12 - End of Course Math

Students will take an end-of-course algebra or geometry test depending on the class they are currently in. Students in grades 10-12 that have already passed the HSPE **or** one end-of-course math test do not need to test

May 21 – June 7 Grades 9-10 End of Course **Biology**

Students enrolled in a biology class will take an end-of-course biology test. This is a new graduation requirement, beginning with the class of 2015 (freshmen). All sophomores are expected to take the end-of-course biology test as part of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, even if they are currently not enrolled in a biology class. However, it is not a graduation requirement for current sophomores.

[What do I need to know about the state tests and graduation?](#)

[How can I view my child's completed test booklet?](#)

[How can I appeal the test results?](#)

[My child is new to the state of Washington.](#)

[What testing options are available?](#)

[Are state testing graduation requirements different for students in special education programs?](#)

[How did my school and district perform on the High School Proficiency Exams?](#)