



PREMIER TUTORING ON YOUR SCHEDULE
TUTORJAM[®]
ACADEMY

Understanding the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program

Understanding the WCAP

In Washington State, the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program offers a tool by which students' academic abilities can be assessed and schools' abilities to educate children to the expected standards can also be assessed. The material being tested is generated by the Essential Academic Learning Requirements, developed as the state's learning standards.

The state assessment was formerly called the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) but it was replaced by two tests, the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) for students in grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) for students in grades 9-12.

Additionally, students will begin taking end-of course (EOC) exams. For students in grades 7-12, there is an end-of-course assessment in math. Starting in 2012, the end-of-course biology exam will fulfill the requirement for the state science exam. These tests assess what a student achieved during the school year. The state is moving in the direction of using end-of-course exams rather than the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE).

The tests are designed to measure students' proficiency with basic skills. Based on the results of the statewide assessment, curriculum and classroom instruction are refined. The purposes of this statewide assessment are to monitor progress of each student as they progress through the grades and to report achievement data for schools and districts. At the high school level, students must be able to pass the statewide assessment as a condition of graduating.

Format of the WCAP

Both the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) assessments use multiple choice and short-answer questions. The four point essay questions on the reading, math and science assessments have been eliminated. With this change, students are able to focus on knowing the content and not being penalized for writing abilities in assessments in math and science.

The end-of-course (EOC) exams are still in a development phase. The math assessment is currently available to students in grades 7-12 and the biology end-of-course assessment will be available in the Spring of 2012. Further assessments in other subjects are being developed.

Taking the WCAP

Students in the following grades take the following tests:

- Reading: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10

- Writing: Grades 4, 7 and 10
- Math: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10
- Science: Grades 5, 8 and 10

Scores are reported on a scale of Advanced (Level 4), Proficient (Level 3), Basic (Level 2) and Below Basic (Level 1). Students with scores in Level 1 or Level 2 have not met the standards. A student scoring a Level 4 has exceeded the standards.

Generally, students need to score correctly on 60 to 65% of the questions to pass each test. A score in that range and above meets the standards for proficiency. Passing the reading and writing assessment of the HSPE, or a state-approved alternative, is required for graduation.

Get Your Child Ready for the WCAP

TutorJam WCAP Tutoring Programs start with a free academic assessment with an Academic Director. Our flagship WCAP Tutoring Program is available for \$179.99/month which includes regular one-on-one tutoring, academic mentorship, bi-monthly progress reports, learning profiles, and parental conference calls. To learn more visit TutorJam.com.