

Tahoma School District

Parent SLP Guide: "Getting to Graduation"

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is an exciting time for students in high schools across the state. We are improving and personalizing high school education and preparing your son or daughter for post-high school success. In early March, an updated Student Learning Plan for your child was mailed home describing the interventions we have put into place during the current school year.

We sincerely hope all of our students are successful on the assessments. If your son or daughter passes the tests, continued planning and preparation in 11th and 12th grade is critical for success after high school. If your son or daughter has difficulty on one or more of the tests, we want you to know we are here to support and assist you and your family. As soon as you receive the test score report, we can sit down with you to plan next steps as necessary and we will update the Student Learning Plan based on your child's needs. We anticipate that the Legislature will continue to provide money for us in order to offer a high quality, practical summer school this year, as well as other options

for extra help during the coming school year. Students have opportunities to retake the WASL in August for reading, writing, and mathematics.

The skills measured on our state assessments are representative of the basic skills all students need to take the next step in life after they leave high school, and we are ready to provide the extra help your son or daughter may need to successfully complete graduation requirements and earn a high school diploma.

Please read the information contained in this brochure carefully as there are many opportunities for extra help and assistance available for your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's Student Learning Plan please contact Terry Duty, THS Principal; Julie Lee, THS Assistant Principal at 425.413.6200 or Michael McGraw, SLP Coordinator; Heidi Young, 10th Grade Counselor, Mike Hanson, 11th Grade Counselor; or Marcey Anderson, 12th Grade Counselor at 425.413.6204.



Student Learning Plans

- Required for students who did not meet standard in reading, writing, or math on the WASL in grades 3-8 and 10th grade
- Updated annually
- Actions the school intends to take to improve the student's skills
- Strategies to help parents improve their child's skills
- Suggested practices for students that successful learners consistently display

Student Learning Plan (SLP)

School districts are required to develop student learning plans for any student in the Class of 2008 and beyond who has not met standard in reading, writing, or mathematics as measured on the WASL. The purpose of the plan is to "help assure continued progress in academic achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are on track for high school graduation." If your child failed to meet standard on one or more of the content area tests on the WASL, a student learning plan is being developed.

To support your child's progress toward achieving state standards, there are interventions the school is either providing and/or recommending listed on the student learning plan. Parent and student actions are also included to support learning for your child.

Parent support is a critical component in helping each child experience high levels of learning. The information in this guide is intended to provide information for parents to support learning.



Working together to support high levels of learning for every child.



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

Class of 2008 (Students in grade 12 2007-2008)	Class of 2009-2012 (Students in grades 8-11 in 2007-2008)	Class of 2013 and Beyond (Students in grades 7 and below 2007-2008)
<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>	<p>READING AND WRITING Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p>MATH Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* --OR-- Earn one math credit (or career and technical course equivalent) after 11th grade AND 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>MATH Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).* --OR-- Earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade AND retake the WASL or an approved math assessment annually. <i>(Student required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p>MATH AND SCIENCE Pass math and science High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).*</p>
<p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS 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>OTHER REQUIREMENTS 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>OTHER REQUIREMENTS 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.

About the Certificate of Academic Achievement and Certificate of Individual Achievement

- The certificates tell businesses and colleges that a student has a solid foundation of key skills and knowledge in reading, writing and math. Students who earn a certificate will have it noted on their transcript.
- Certificate of Academic Achievement – Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the WASL or a Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (a state-approved alternative) in reading, writing and math.
- Certificate of Individual Achievement – Only for students in special education. Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the WASL-Modified, Portfolio or the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) in reading, writing and math.
- Students in the classes of 2008-2012 who earn math credits until graduation, but do not pass the WASL or another approved math assessment, are still eligible to earn a diploma but they won't earn a certificate.
- An appeal system is available for students who transfer in from other states and countries or have special, unavoidable circumstances. Students who are successful with an appeal will earn a diploma but not a certificate. For more information visit: www.k12.wa.us/assessment/appeals.aspx.

About the High School WASL

- Students have five state-funded opportunities during high school to take each WASL content area: reading, writing, math and science.
- Students pass with a Level 3 or 4 score.
- WASL testing occurs in March/April and August each year.
- Score appeal process: Parents/guardians, after reviewing their student's test, may file a score appeal with the state.
- To learn more about the WASL, please visit: www.wasinfo.org or www.k21.wa.us/assessment/appeals.aspx.

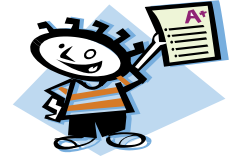
About Certificate of Academic Achievement Options (state-approved alternatives to the WASL)

- Students who have the skills but are unable to show them on the WASL may use the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options.
- Students may access the options after taking the WASL once in reading, writing and math.
- The Certificate of Academic Achievement Options are:
 - › Collection of Evidence – Students compile a set of classroom work samples in reading, writing or math with the help of teachers. The state scores collections two times a year. Samples must meet state guidelines and state panel review, and demonstrate proficiency in that topic comparable to the proficiency tested on the WASL. Scores are released 60 days after submittal deadlines, which are February 15 and June 16, 2008. (Seniors who submit in June will not graduate June.)
 - › Fee Waivers are available for eligible students to take the approved PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP assessments.
 - › SAT or ACT – Students may use their math, reading or English and writing scores on college readiness tests.
 - Minimum math scores: SAT – 470; and ACT – 19.
 - Minimum reading scores: SAT – 350; and ACT – 13.
 - Minimum writing scores: SAT – 380; and ACT to be determined.
 - › PSAT – Right now, students may submit a math score of 47 as an approved alternative. After Aug. 31, 2008, the PSAT will no longer be an approved alternative.
 - › Advanced Placement (AP) – Students may use a score of three or higher on select AP exams.
 - Math: Calculus or statistics
 - Writing: English language and composition
 - Reading: English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history, world history, United States government and politics, or comparative government and politics
 - › WASL/Grades Comparison – (must be in 12th grade) A student's grades in math courses and/or English courses are compared with the grades of students who took the same courses AND passed the WASL. To access this option, a student must have an overall cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale.

About Assessments for Students in Special Education

- Students in special education may take the High School WASL with or without accommodations or use one of the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options.
- The following options are also available:
 - › WASL-Basic – Students take the High School WASL – with or without accommodations – but IEP teams adjust passing criteria from Proficient (Level 3) to Basic (Level 2).
 - › Washington Alternate Assessment System Portfolio – Students unable to take paper and pencil tests show their skills and knowledge through a collection of their work.
 - › Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) – Students in grades 11 and 12 only take the WASL – with or without accommodations at a grade level that best matches their abilities. Students pass the DAW by earning Proficient (Level 3) on each test taken.
 - › Locally Determined Assessments (LDA) – For 12th grade students only who have an IEP for the content area(s) in reading, writing and math and are on track to graduate. The WASL, WASL-Basic or WAAS Portfolio are not appropriate to test their skills.
- The WASL-Basic is given in March/April and August each year. The Portfolio and the DAW are given in March/April and November.

Additional Support for Students



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30—8:10	Science (room 106)	Math (computer lab—room 403)	Science (room 106)	Math (computer lab—room 403)	
7:45—8:10	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)
8:15—8:45			Wednesday Tutorial (all teachers available for help in their classrooms)		
2:50—3:35	Science (room 105)	Math (computer lab— room 403)	Science (room 105)	Math (computer lab— room 403)	
2:45—3:15	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)	Writing Lab Open (room 220)

SPRING BREAK WASL PREP

Subject	Date	Time	Format
Math	April 8	9:00—11:00	Group instruction
		11:00—12:00	Small group tutoring
Science	April 9	9:00—11:00	Group instruction
		11:00—12:00	Small group tutoring
Math and Science Test Taking Strategies	April 10	9:00—11:00	Group instruction
		11:00—12:00	Small group tutoring

Learn more about standards, the WASL and the Certificate of Academic Achievement at www.k12.wa.us or at www.partnership4learning.org

Questions ?

Tahoma Senior High School
425.413.6200

Tahoma Senior High School
Counseling Office
425.413.6204

Tahoma Teaching and Learning
425.413.3400

*Tahoma High School
Career Center
Open Tuesday evenings
6:30 –8:00
for parents and students*



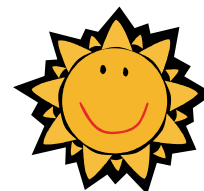
Visit the Career Center at the high school to complete an interest inventory, research jobs, and get information about colleges and training programs.



Many teachers are using an on-line grading tool that parents can access to see attendance, current grades, missing work, etc. Go to the school website for easy access at <http://tshs.tahomasd.us>

SUMMER SCHOOL OPTIONS

Class	Class Length	Content Areas	Dates	Time
WASL Success 1	4 weeks	Read, Write, Math	July 7 —August 1	9:00—12:00
	<i>Small group tutoring model for students at level 1 or low level 2—designed to work on skill building that would be continued in the regular school year, most students would plan to retake WASL in March/April.</i>			
WASL Success 2	4 weeks	Read, Write, Math	July 7—August 1	9:00—12:00
	<i>Group instruction using WASL modules— designed to help students who are at level 2 prepare to re-take the WASL in August.</i>			
WASL Blast	1 week	Read, Write, Math	August 4—August 8	9:00—12:00
	<i>Focused instruction designed to assist students who are at a high level 2 to retake WASL in August.</i>			
Credit Retrieval	4 weeks	All content areas	July 7—August 1	9:00—12:00
	<i>Designed for students who are in grade 12 or those students in grades 10 or 11 who have met standard on WASL in reading, writing, and mathematics but need to participate in credit recovery. *There is a fee for this class.</i>			



WASL Testing Dates

Spring 2008 WASL Testing

Reading	Writing	Math	Science
March 10-11	March 12-13	April 15-16	April 17-18

August 2008 Retesting

Reading	Math	Writing
August 11	August 12	August 13 -14

Spring 2009 WASL Testing

Reading	Writing	Math	Science
March 16-17	March 18-19	April 13-14	April 20-21



Many teachers are using an on-line grading tool that parents can access to see current grades, missing work, attendance, parent contact information, etc.

Bookmark the high school website at <http://tshs.tahomasd.us>

Learn more about standards, the WASL and the Certificate of Academic Achievement at www.k12.wa.us or at www.partnership4learning.org



Questions ?

Tahoma Senior High School 425.413.6200 (main office) 425.413.6204 (counseling office)
 Tahoma Teaching and Learning 425.413.3430