



Get the latest information about the new state standards and testing by downloading the district app. Search for "Federal Way Public Schools" in the Apple App Store or in Google Play.

Ésta es información importante para los padres y los tutores. Se puede hallar traducciones en la página de Internet: www.fwps.org/teaching/common-core/

Это важная информация для родителей и опекунов. Вы можете прочитать информацию на русском языке, если откроете страницу интернета www.fwps.org/teaching/common-core/

학부모와 보호자에게 중요한 정보입니다. 다음의 웹페이지에 번역된 내용이 있습니다: www.fwps.org/teaching/common-core/



Federal Way Public Schools

YOUR STUDENT AND Smarter Balanced Testing

Preparing students for college and career in the 21st century

This year, Washington state students will take the **SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS** instead of the Measures of Student Progress (MSP) and High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) tests in math, reading and writing.

What's different about these tests?

- These new tests are aligned with the new state standards (Common Core).
- The tests are taken online at a computer during the school day.
- The testing will take place on several days between March and June. Your school will give you the specific dates for testing as soon as they are scheduled.
- During the test, the questions are adjusted to student skill levels based on previous answers (you'll hear this referred to as computer adaptive testing).

Something else different

Smarter Balanced Assessments include performance task testing. For this test section, the teacher will lead a structured in-class activity. And then, students will use the computer to answer questions and complete tasks related to the activity.

Things that are the same

- The tests will tell us if a student can show he or she understands the subject matter.
- The spring tests, called summative assessments, determine if a student meets the grade level standards.
- The tests are taken by students in grades 3 through 8 and those in grades 10 and 11. It is not a graduation requirement for high school students until 2019. See the back side of this flyer.
- Grades 5 and 8 will take the science portion of the MSP because Smarter Balanced Assessment does not yet include science.

Interim assessments

There are other tests that students take during the year to give teachers information about student progress.

- These tests help teachers, parents and students see where the students are in their learning
- Teachers can then make adjustments to their teaching or provide extra help to students who need it.
- In FWPS, we have called these **formative assessments** in the past.

Assessments are not the only tool

Teachers use many methods to help students succeed. These tests, like any test, are only tools to measure what students know and can do at that point in time.

- Performance on the tests doesn't tell us whether a student is "capable" or "not capable."
- They do not measure an individual student's growth.
- They don't tell us how good a teacher is.

Adapting to the new tests

These tests are challenging. It will take time for students and staff to learn and adapt to them.

- There is always a period of adjustment when new testing changes are rolled out.
- Schools and districts, including FWPS, are prepared to see a drop in test scores.
- Over time the scores will improve, instruction will continually improve and students will learn more.
- Ultimately, FWPS students will be prepared for college and career success by doing a high level of work.

Why are we making these changes?

Data shows that too many students in Washington and across the country are graduating without the skills and knowledge they need to be ready for 21st century jobs and college. It's estimated that, by 2018, two out of every three jobs in the state

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT
www.readywa.org
www.fwps.org/teaching/common-core AND
<http://yourchildspage.com>

will require a college degree or certificate. The new standards and testing are geared to prepare all students for career and college success in our changing economy.

What does this mean for students who are nearing graduation?

Our high school students are nearing graduation and have been exposed to the new state standards and related instruction changes for a very short time. **They are not expected to pass the new Smarter Balanced assessment in order to graduate.**

But, beginning in 2014-2015, tenth and eleventh graders will have the opportunity to take the new assessments. This helps schools, the district and the state determine what's working well with the test, and what needs to change. It also will establish the new benchmark that schools will be evaluated on for adequate yearly progress.

The grid below shows which tests a student must pass in order to graduate as we move toward 2019.

- Scores may be used for graduation in some cases, but other assessments (see the grid below) will be the primary graduation tests through 2018.
- Beginning in 2014-15, 10th graders can take an ELA Exit Exam.
- In 2019, only the Smarter Balanced tests will determine graduation.
- Students who do not pass or who miss a required test will be offered several makeup test opportunities.
- Students who are failing or who receive special education services will be offered a range of alternatives for meeting graduation requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The tests students must take to graduate will change over the next few years to reflect updated learning standards, but students must continue to demonstrate they are college and career ready in three subjects: English language arts, math and science. **Find the student's graduation year below to identify the primary tests given to satisfy the graduation requirements in those subjects.**

GRAD CLASS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)	MATH	SCIENCE
2015	High School Proficiency Exam Given to this grad class in 10th grade	Algebra or Geometry EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course	Biology EOC Given at end of course
2016	High School Proficiency Exam Given to this grad class in 10th grade	Algebra or Geometry EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course	Biology EOC Given at end of course
2017	ELA Exit Exam Given to this grad class in 10th grade	Algebra or Geometry EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course	Biology EOC Exit Exam* Given at end of course
2018	ELA Exit Exam Given to this grad class in 10th grade	Algebra or Geometry EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course	Biology EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course
2019	Smarter Balanced ELA Given to all 11th graders	Smarter Balanced Math Given to all 11th graders	Biology EOC Exit Exam Given at end of course

*Note that the Biology EOC Exit Exam is a newer test aligned to Next Gen Science Standards, compared to the older EOC.