

**Since state Superintendent Randy Dorn** in January announced his plan to replace the WASL, students and families have reported some confusion in regards to state testing.

### **Why can't the WASL just go away?**

State and federal law prohibit Dorn from completely eliminating this testing. The State testing system was implemented because of the state's Education Reform Law of 1993. Also, the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires annual assessments in reading and math for students in grades 3-8 and high school. Students must also be tested annually in science in three grade levels – Washington tests during 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

### **So, what exactly does a student need to meet standard?**

Students will still have to meet standard on the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE, formerly called the WASL) in reading and writing or on another standardized test, provided the HSPE has been taken at least once (typically in the sophomore year).

Qualifying standardized test scores are:

	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	470	19
<b>Reading</b>	350	13
<b>Writing</b>	380	15

### **What happens if I don't meet standard in math?**

Students who don't meet standard on the math HSPE must earn 2.0 math credits after their sophomore year in order to graduate from high school. Juniors and seniors can continue to take the HSPE or other standardized tests to attempt to meet standard.

### **How does the HSPE format differ from the WASL?**

The HSPE is much shorter than the WASL and will include multiple choice and short-answer questions. Four-point essay questions have been eliminated on the reading, math and science exams. This change allows students to show they are able to critically think, while not being scored on their writing ability.

The writing HSPE will continue to be divided into two days, testing students' ability to write an expository and persuasive essay.

The exams will continue to be paper and pencil tests. Online testing will be phased in at the middle school level this year and OSPI's goal is to offer online high school testing on a volunteer basis by 2011.

**WASL dates are:**

Reading: Tuesday, March 16;

Writing: Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18,

Mathematics: Tuesday, April 13, and

Science: Thursday, April 15.

**Where can I get more information?**

OSPI has several links. Go to: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us), [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com) or [StateTesting@k12.wa.us](mailto:StateTesting@k12.wa.us).