



# Certificate of Academic Achievement Options

Updated September 2008

All high school students must show they have key reading and writing skills by graduation. Most students will meet this requirement by passing the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Some students with strong skills, however, may need to use an assessment other than the WASL to demonstrate their skills. For these students, the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) Options – state-approved alternatives to the WASL – are available.

Learn more about the CAA Options at [www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/default.aspx) or talk with your school's CAA Options Building Facilitator or counselor.

## General information

### What are the CAA Options?

- Advanced Placement and College Admission Test Scores, such as SAT and ACT
- Collection of Evidence
- WASL/Grades Comparison

### Are the CAA Options easier than the WASL?

No. The CAA Options are designed – and required by law – to be as challenging as the WASL.

### Who is eligible to use the CAA Options?

Students can use the CAA Options after taking the high school WASL once, or if they transfer from out-of-state in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There are specific requirements for these options. For more information, visit [www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/default.aspx).

### Do eligible students have to use the CAA Options?

No. Students may keep taking the WASL. Students have five opportunities from spring of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to spring of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year to take WASL and earn a CAA.

### May students keep taking the WASL if they're working on one of the CAA Options?

Yes.



**May a student use the high school WASL to meet standard in one area and use a CAA Option in the other(s)?**

Yes.

### Is there someone at each school parents/guardians and students can talk to about the CAA Options?

Yes. The school's CAA Options building facilitator, the student's counselor or the school principal.

## Out-of-State Transfer Waiver

### What is it?

Out-of-state students who transfer into Washington public schools during their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year may apply to have the WASL graduation requirement waived if they have previously passed another state's high school exam. These students also have immediate access to CAA Options. For more information, visit

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Appeals.aspx>.

## AP and College Admission Test Scores

### What is it?

Students may use their reading, writing or math scores on the SAT or ACT to show they have key knowledge and skills. In addition, students who earn a score of three or higher on specified Advanced Placement (AP) tests may use these scores. As of Aug. 31, 2008, PSAT math scores are no longer an option.

### What test scores do students need to earn?

Students must meet or exceed one of the following scores in a subject area:

Math	SAT: 470	ACT: 19
Reading	SAT: 350	ACT: 13
Writing	SAT: 380	ACT: 15

### What AP tests count?

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

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**If a student took the SAT, ACT or an AP test before taking the WASL, can a student submit those scores?**

Yes, but the student must take the WASL before using SAT, ACT or AP scores for the CAA.

**May a student get a fee waiver or reimbursement for taking the SAT, ACT or AP tests?**

Yes. Eligible students who use these tests for purposes of a CAA Option may get a fee voucher or get reimbursed ([www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Equivalency.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Equivalency.aspx))

**How does a student access this CAA Option?**

Students who have taken one of these tests and met or exceeded the required score may complete an application form, have it signed by a school official and send the application and the test's score report to OSPI.

For more information and to apply:

[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Equivalency.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Equivalency.aspx)

To register for SAT & AP exams: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

To register for the ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

## Collection of Evidence

**What is it?**

Students compile a set of classroom work samples with the help of a teacher. This option may be used for meeting the math, reading and/or writing standard.

**How does it work?**

Students use subject-specific classroom work samples developed under a teacher's supervision. Students must follow state guidelines for collections.

**Who is eligible to use this option?**

Students who taken the WASL at least once and who have not met standard in math, reading or writing.

**How does a student meet the requirement?**

Each student collection is scored by a panel of educators selected and trained by the state. Collections must show a student has the skills that are tested on the WASL.

**How does a student access this option?**

Students should inform their school principal or counselor of their interest in developing a collection. The deadlines for the 2008-09 school year are Feb. 6, 2009 (for 12<sup>th</sup> graders) and June 5, 2009 (for all high school students).

**Is there an option for students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs?**

Yes. CTE students may use class work from their CTE classes to build their collections as well as work samples they complete in other classes.

**When do students receive their results?**

The school district will be notified about 60 days after the collections are submitted.

**Where can I get more information?**

[www.coe.k12.wa.us](http://www.coe.k12.wa.us)

## WASL/Grades Comparison

**What is it?**

A student's grades in either math or English courses are compared to the grades of other students who took the same courses AND passed the WASL. This option may be used to meet the math, reading or writing standard.



**Who is eligible to use this option?**

This option is available to students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who have a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher across all courses.

**How does it work?**

The school district identifies a group of students who took, for example, the same math courses as the applicant student and also passed the math WASL. The group's GPA earned in these courses is calculated and compared to the applicant student's GPA in the same courses.

**Where can I get more information?**

[www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Comparison.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAOPTIONS/Comparison.aspx)

## Special Circumstance Appeals

**Who is eligible for the Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal?**

Students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who have not met standard on the high school WASL (or an approved alternative), and experience a "special, unavoidable circumstance" that precludes their ability to access a state-approved assessment as a senior, may appeal to a state review board. In addition, students in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year who transfer into a state public school from an in-state private school or a home school may apply for direct access to the CAA Options using this appeal. Those students must show that taking the high school WASL would be a detriment to their educational schedule and/or experience. For more information, visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Appeals.aspx>.

