



Certificate of Academic Achievement Options

Class of 2015 and Beyond

Most students will meet the state English language arts (ELA), math and science assessment graduation requirements by the passing exit exams. Some students, however, may need to use an alternate way to demonstrate their skills. For these students, the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) Options, or “state-approved alternatives,” are available.

Learn more about CAA Options at bit.ly/1nyykvR or talk with your school counselor.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What are the CAA Options?

- Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and college admission test scores, such as SAT and ACT
- Collection of Evidence (COE)
- GPA Comparison

Are the CAA Options easier than the HSPE/EOC?

No. The CAA Options are designed, as required by law, to be as challenging as the exit exams.

Who is eligible to use the CAA Options?

Unless a student has transferred into Washington public schools during 11th or 12th grade from out of state or an in-state non-public school setting, he/she must attempt each high school exam at least once before they can access a CAA Option.

Do eligible students have to use the CAA Options?

No. Students have multiple opportunities to take the exit exams and earn a CAA. Students first take EOC exams in the year they take the respective class (algebra 1 or geometry—or integrated math equivalents, and biology).

DIRECT ACCESS TO CAA OPTIONS

What are the requirements for transfer students?

Students who transfer into Washington public schools during 11th or 12th grade from out of state or an in-state non-public school setting (private or home school) may apply for access to CAA Options without taking the exit exams. Please discuss this option with your school counselor.

GPA COMPARISON

What is it?

A student’s grades in math, English or science course(s) are compared to the grades of other students who took the same course(s) AND passed that content area’s exit exam. This option may be used to meet the math, reading, writing or science standard.

Who is eligible to use this option?

This option is available 12th graders who have a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher across all courses.

May students keep taking the HSPE/EOC if they’re working on one of the CAA Options?

Yes.

May a student use a high school exit exam 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.

What if my student passed an exam in another state?

Out-of-state students who transfer into Washington public schools may apply to have the state assessment graduation requirement waived if they have previously passed another state’s high school accountability or exit exam.

How does it work?

The school district identifies a group of students who took, for example, the same Algebra course as the applicant student and also passed the math EOC. The group’s GPA earned in this Algebra course is calculated and compared to the applicant student’s GPA in the same course.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE, AP, IB TEST SCORES

What is it?

Students may use their reading, writing or math scores on the SAT or ACT (must be ACT Plus Writing to qualify for writing requirement) to show they have key knowledge and skills.

Currently, students may not use SAT or ACT to meet the assessment graduation requirement in science. OSPI will determine scores for ACT science and SAT subject area tests in science as soon as adequate data are available.

In addition, students who earn a score of 3 or higher on specified AP tests or 4 or higher on specified IB tests may use these scores. Scores from science AP and IB tests may be used to meet standard.

What test scores do students need to earn?

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

- **Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1**
SAT: 390 ACT: 16
- **Geometry/Integrated Math 2**
SAT: 400 ACT: 17
- **Reading** SAT: 350 ACT: 13
- **Writing** SAT: 380 ACT: 15

Which AP tests count?

- **Math:** Calculus or statistics
- **ELA:** English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, U.S. history, world history, U.S. government and politics, or comparative government and politics
- **Science:** Biology, chemistry, physics or environmental science

COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

What is it?

Students compile a set of work samples for ELA (reading and writing through the Class of 2016), math year 1 or year 2, and/or biology with the help of a teacher. Students must follow state guidelines.

How does a student meet the requirement?

Each student's Collection is scored by a panel of professional scorers selected and trained by the state. Collections must show a student has the skills that are tested on the HSPE/EOC.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE APPEALS

Who is eligible for the Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal?

Twelfth graders who have not met standard on an exit exam (or an approved alternative), and experience a "special, unavoidable

Which IB tests count?

- **ELA:** Language A: literature, language A: language and literature, business and management, economics, geography, history, information technology is a global society, philosophy, psychology or social and cultural anthropology
- **Math:** Mathematics or further mathematics
- **Science:** Biology, chemistry or physics

If a student took the SAT, ACT, AP or IB test before taking the exit exam, can a student submit those scores?

Yes, but the student must take the HSPE/EOC before SAT, ACT, AP or IB scores may be used for the CAA.

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

Yes. Eligible students who use these tests for purposes of a CAA Option may get a fee voucher or get reimbursed.

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.

- Register for SAT & AP: www.collegeboard.com
- Register for the ACT: www.actstudent.org
- To register for IB, contact your school counselor

How does a student access this option?

Students should inform their school principal, counselor or teacher of their interest in developing a Collection. The deadlines are in January, April and June.

How do students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs use this Option?

CTE students may participate in the same manner as other students. Students must follow state guidelines.

When do students receive their results?

The school district will be notified within 60 days after Collections are submitted.

circumstance" that hinders their ability to access a state-approved assessment or alternative during their senior year, may appeal to a state review board.