

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
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STATE OF WASHINGTON

Washington Student Achievement Council
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Dear High School Student:

This spring you will take part in the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts (ELA) and/or math. These tests are a good way to see if you are ready to take college-level classes in those two content areas.

The score you receive aligns with an "Achievement Level" (1 through 4). Knowing your achievement level will help you choose which high school courses will best prepare you for success after you graduate.

Your school can access your scores, electronically, just a few weeks after you take the tests. You will receive a paper copy of your Smarter Balanced scores from your school district by September.

If you score a **Level 3 or 4**, you may be able to avoid taking a placement test and costly remedial classes if you enroll in college the year you graduate from high school. More than 220 public and private colleges, universities, and community and technical colleges across the country allow students to use Smarter Balanced scores to show they are ready for college coursework. For a complete list of participating colleges, visit <http://bit.ly/SBA-HigherEd>.

If you take one or more Smarter Balanced tests as a 10th grader and earn a 3 or 4, you do not need to take that test again as an 11th grader. If you do not earn a 3 or 4 as a 10th grader, you will take that test again in 11th grade.

If you score a **Level 2**, check to see if your high school offers a "Bridge to College" course in ELA or math. These intensive one-year courses are designed to get students college- and career-ready by the time they graduate from high school. You can still skip placement tests and remedial courses at any of Washington's 34 public community and technical colleges if you earn a B or better in a Bridge course and enroll the year you graduate from high school.

If you score a **Level 1**, you are not yet on track for college. Work with your school to get the personalized support you need. You may need to take remedial courses if you choose to go to college.

To learn more, visit www.wsac.wa.gov/college-readiness. If you have questions, talk with your teachers, high school counselor, or career center director.

Sincerely,

Randy I. Dorn
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Gene Sharratt
Executive Director
Washington Student Achievement Council