

Testing 1, 2, 3

PTSA gets many questions about standardized testing. We put together this document to help mitigate the confusion. If you have any questions about the HSPE, EOC or PSAT exams, please contact the school. Your student can speak to the counselors about the SAT and ACT tests. And PTSA can answer questions about the Fear Free exams.

EXAMS REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- HSPE – The High School Proficiency Exam is a required state exam that all 10th grade students must take and pass in order to graduate. The HSPE is typically offered during the middle of March. These tests measure the basic proficiency of students in reading and writing.
<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/statetesting/HSPE.aspx>
- EOC – The End of Course examinations are also state exams. For the class of 2014, the requirement is to pass the Algebra and/or Geometry exam. For the class of 2015 and beyond, students must pass both Algebra and Geometry as well as Biology. These tests are administered during the last 3 weeks of the school year at the school. Make up exams are also offered in the winter (January or February).
<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/EndofCourse.aspx>
 - If a student is unsuccessful in passing the Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC exam, they may submit official ACT or SAT scores in lieu of their state test scores to meet graduation requirements. Of note, the student must sit for and attempt to pass the exam before they are allowed this option. If students use SAT or ACT scores to meet state testing graduation requirements, they will earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement Options instead of a Certificate of Individual Achievement. At this point in time, we are unaware of colleges or universities making a differentiation between the two certificates; please confirm with your colleges.
- Transfer Students: The state of Washington stipulates that any student that transfers from out-of-state during their 11th or 12th grade year has the opportunity to qualify for graduation without take a state exam. These students may use out-of-state testing scores from their previous school district or they can use SAT or ACT scores in lieu of state testing.
www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WaiverAppeals/TransferWaiver.aspx
However, if your student transfers to our school district before their 11th grade year, they must take and pass all of our state exams in order to qualify for graduation. Out-of-state test scores will not be accepted even if your student took and passed the Algebra 1, Geometry, or Biology EOC exams in their previous school district!

EXAMS FOR COLLEGE OPTIONS

- PSAT – The Preliminary SAT is a standardized test similar to, but shorter than, the SAT. It is offered once a year through the school. This exam is the eligibility test for the National Merit Scholarship program for high school juniors. Sophomores and juniors take the exam during the school day, at the school on a date determined by the PSAT, usually in mid-October. This is NOT the test that colleges require for admission. <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

- College Admission Exams – the SAT and the ACT. These exams are standardized tests offered multiple times during the year. Most colleges and universities require the SAT or the ACT for admission. Colleges generally ask you to submit either your SAT scores or your ACT scores, but usually not both. You may take the exams multiple times; colleges choose how to read your scores – for the SAT they may take your best total score in one sitting, your best aggregate score (the highest score on each of the parts added together - sometimes called a “superscore”), your most recent test score, or they may average your scores. The ACT does not separate out scores into different parts, but if you take the exam more than once, you can choose which scores to send to colleges. Check with individual colleges for their exam policies.
 - SAT – this test is offered through the College Board. This test consists of three parts – Reading, Writing and Math, with each part scored on an 800 point scale. <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>
 - ACT – this test is offered through the ACT. It consists of four parts – Reading, Writing, Math and Science, with an optional writing section. The ACT is scored on a 36 point scale, with individual sub-scores for the sections graded on a 1-18 point scale. Please note that many colleges require the writing section if you take the ACT. <http://www.actstudent.org/>
 - SAT Subject Tests – some colleges require exams in specific subjects. Check individual colleges for their requirements. Each exam is one hour long and up to three exams may be taken on one day. <http://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat-subject-tests>
- Fear Free SAT and ACT are real tests (versions that are no longer in use), proctored and graded, but the test scores are for your eyes only. These scores can never be sent to colleges, so the pressure is off. The PTSA sponsors these tests at Eastlake 4-6 times per year. This is a fundraiser for the PTSA, so we ask that you consider these tests when making your test prep decisions. These exams are appropriate for students in all grades as an introduction to standardized test-taking, a warm-up for real exams, or a way to determine which exam (SAT or ACT) is the right one for you. We also offer the “scores back” session after the exam where you can pick up your test and get information about how to interpret your scores.