

Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors for the Washington State Summative ELA Test

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What are Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors for the ELA SBAs?

Washington (WA) uses the English language arts (ELA) Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for its state summative test. Student performance on the SBA is divided into four levels. Each level functions as an estimate of students' performance on some of the skills and knowledge in the [WA state learning standards for ELA](#). Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the possible meaning of scores that fall within each level.

ELA skills and knowledge tested in the SBA include:

- *Reading*: Identifying main ideas in a literary or informational reading passage
- *Writing*: Using grade level conventions in writing
- *Listening*: Interpreting information through listening
- *Research and Inquiry*: Analyzing information presented in multiple sources

The overall achievement level a student earns does not necessarily indicate that the student has performed equally across reading, writing, listening, and research and inquiry.

When using Reporting ALDs to interpret students' scores, it is important to remember that factors unrelated to students' knowledge or skills may affect their scores. In addition, SBA scores need to be considered alongside other [assessments and descriptions of learning](#) to capture a student's academic achievement more completely. SBA scores should never be used to define students' potential or capabilities or to deny educational opportunities.

Grades 3-8 Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

Level 4 indicates that the student has exceeded grade level expectations on this test and are likely on track for success with higher grade level learning expectations.

Level 3 indicates that the student has met grade level expectations on this test and are likely on track for success with higher grade level learning expectations.

Level 2 indicates that the student has nearly met grade level expectations on this test.

Level 1 indicates that the student has not met grade level expectations on this test.



HS Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs): typically administered at grade 10 in WA

Level 4 indicates that the student has exceeded grade level expectations on this test and are likely on track for success with higher grade level learning expectations. This score meets the state graduation pathways requirement for ELA. The [graduation pathway\(s\)](#) chosen by a student must be aligned with their High School and Beyond Plan.

Level 3 indicates that the student has met grade level expectations on this test and are likely on track for success with higher grade level learning expectations. This score meets the state graduation pathways requirement for ELA. The [graduation pathway\(s\)](#) chosen by a student must be aligned with their High School and Beyond Plan.

Level 2 indicates that the student has nearly met grade level expectations on this test. A score of 2548 or above within Level 2 meets the state graduation pathways requirement for ELA: a score below 2548 within Level 2 does not meet the state [graduation pathway](#) for ELA. The graduation pathway(s) chosen by a student must be aligned with their High School and Beyond Plan.

Level 1 indicates that the student has not met grade level expectations on this test. This score does not meet the state [graduation pathways requirement](#) for ELA. The graduation pathway(s) chosen by a student must be aligned with their High School and Beyond Plan.

For more information, contact the [Assessment Development Office](#) at OSPI.

[Math Reporting ALDs](#)

[Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science \(WCAS\) ALDs](#)



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