

Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors for the Washington State Summative English Language Arts Test

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What are Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors for the ELA SBA?

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](#). 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

Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the possible meaning of scores falling within each level. The overall 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 the SBAs are not Pass/Fail for individual students but are designed to provide system-wide information. In addition, factors unrelated to students' knowledge or skills may affect their scores. Finally, 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 Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors

Level 4 Students consistently demonstrate advanced grade-level knowledge and skills with deep understanding and a full range of complexity.

Level 3 Students consistently demonstrate proficient grade-level knowledge and skills with a broad range of complexity.

Level 2 Students demonstrate foundational grade-level knowledge and skills with a limited range of complexity.

Level 1 Students do not consistently demonstrate grade-level knowledge and skills.



HS Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors: typically administered at grade 10 in WA

Level 4 Students consistently demonstrate advanced grade-level knowledge and skills with deep understanding and a full range of complexity. 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 Students consistently demonstrate proficient grade-level knowledge and skills with a broad range of complexity. 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 Students demonstrate foundational grade-level knowledge and skills with a limited range of complexity. 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 Students do not consistently demonstrate grade-level knowledge and skills. 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.

[Math Reporting Achievement Level Descriptors](#)

[Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science \(WCAS\) Achievement Level Descriptors](#)

For more information, contact the Assessment Development Office at OSPI: asi@k12.wa.us.



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