

## Science

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1. What is the State Board of Education's (SBE) role in science education?

One of the Board's five [Strategic Plan](#) goals is to promote effective strategies to make Washington's students nationally and internationally competitive in math and science. The Board provides system oversight for math and science achievement, and establishes some of the state-prescribed graduation requirements, including essential credit requirements. Science is one of those requirements.

The Board also sets the cut scores on the state science assessments to establish the level of proficiency students are expected to attain.

The 2007 Legislature gave one-time responsibilities to SBE when it directed the Board to:

1. Review the state's science essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations and recommend revisions to those standards. The Board completed this work in 2008 when it accepted a [report](#) that reviewed the standards.
2. Provide official comment and recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the recommended science curricula. The Board completed this work in 2009.

2. What is the Washington State science credit requirement for graduation?

Washington requires students to complete two credits of science, one of them lab, in order to graduate from high school.

3. Are there Washington schools that require more than the minimum two credits of science?

Forty-seven districts (19 percent of districts with high schools) require students to take three or more credits of science.

A 2008 transcript study of almost 15,000 2008 Washington graduates showed that 54.6 percent of the students took three credits of science, including two labs (almost 79 percent of the students took two credits of lab science).

A list of current district graduation requirements is available (excel). The science research brief from the transcript study is [here](#).

4. What is the science requirement that SBE approved in November 2010?

SBE approved a new career and college ready graduation requirements framework that includes three credits of science, two of them lab. The legislature must authorize and fund any new requirements that have a fiscal impact on districts. Until the legislature acts, SBE will not adopt rules to implement the new requirement. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia require students to complete three or more science credits to graduate.

5. What is the science assessment requirement for graduation?

Washington requires students in the graduating class of 2015 to pass a statewide biology end-of-course assessment. A document explaining an overview of state assessment graduation requirements is available [here](#).

A 2008 report on (EOC) science assessments is available [here](#).