

High School Graduation Requirements

The board will establish graduation requirements which, at a minimum satisfy those established by the State Board of Education. The board will approve additional graduation requirements as recommended by the superintendent. Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school will remain in effect until that student graduates.

Senior high graduation is granted on the basis of successfully completing twenty four annualized credits in grades 9-12. As used in this policy, high school credit means one hundred fifty (150) hours (equivalent of 180 days of 50 minute class periods) of planned instructional activities approved by the District.

Awarding of High School Credit

High school credit will be awarded for successful completion of a specified unit of study. In this district, successful completion of a specified unit of study means:

1. Successfully completing 150 hours of planned instructional activities excluding passing time.
2. Earning a passing grade according to the district’s grading policy and/or
3. Demonstrating proficiency/mastery of content standards as determined by the district; and/or
4. The district will establish a process for determining proficiency/mastery for credit-bearing courses of study.

Graduation Requirements:	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019+	Course Requirements
English	4	4	4	ELA course at each grade level
Math	3	3	3	
Science	3	3	3	Must include 1 lab science
Social Studies	3	3	3	World History, CWP1, US History, CWP2, Civics, WA State History
Health and Fitness	2	2	2	.5 credit required in Health
Fine Arts	1	1	2 (1*)	
Foreign Language	0	0	2 (2*)	Two consecutive years
Career and Technical	2	2	2	.5 credit required in Intro. to Business
Elective	6	6	3	
Total	24	24	24	

** Personal Plan Requirement: Student may waive all or part of these requirements in lieu of CTE/Electives based on Post-Secondary Plan.*

In addition to the minimum credit requirements, to earn a diploma each student must complete:

1) High School and Beyond Plan

Within the first year of high school enrollment, each student will develop a plan for satisfying the high school graduation requirements and for their first year after high school completion. The plan should be developed in collaboration with the student, parent, and district staff. The plan should include how the student will satisfy the district’s academic credit requirements, preparation for successfully completing the statewide assessment and the student’s goals for the year following graduation. Each student plan should be reviewed annually to assess student progress, to adjust the plan, and to advise the student on steps necessary for successful completion of the plan. At the end of a student’s senior year they will complete a senior presentation of their High School Beyond plan to a panel of community members and school staff.

2) English Language Arts requirements

Students must pass one of the following comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) exit exams: reading and writing portions of the 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Comprehensive ELA Test (administered beginning spring 2015). Students may

also pass the state-approved alternatives. Students in the class of 2019 and beyond must pass the 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Comprehensive ELA Test. In addition, students are required to participate in an English class at each grade level.

3) Math requirements

Additional credit information for Classes of 2015-2017

Math (3 credits required)

Math credits are required as follows: Algebra 1; Geometry or Algebra 2, or a 3rd credit of math, other than Algebra 2, if the elective is based on a career-oriented program of study identified in the student's High School and Beyond Plan and the student, parent/guardian and a school representative meet, discuss the plan and sign a form pursuant to WAC 180-51-067(2)(b).

Additional credit information for Classes of 2018-2020

Math (3 credits required)

The following courses are required: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or a third credit of math, if the elective is based on a career-oriented program of study identified in the student's High School and Beyond Plan and the student, parent/guardian and a school representative meet, discuss the plan and sign a form pursuant to WAC 180-51-067.

Additional credit information for Class of 2021 and beyond

Math (3 credits required)

Credit requirements conform to Career & College-Ready Graduation requirements. A third credit of math is chosen by the student based on the student's interest and High School and Beyond Plan and approved by the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian is unavailable or does not indicate a preference, the school counselor or principal will approve the course.

4) ELA Requirements

Students in the Class of 2018 and beyond must pass the Smarter Balanced Comprehensive ELA exam or state approved alternative.

5) Science requirements

Students in the class of 2017 and beyond must pass the biology end-of-course assessment or a state-approved alternative. All students take the progressive sequence of Physical Science/Integrated Science and Biology OR other district approved sequence. The third year of science shall be based on the students High School and Beyond Plan. At least one science credit must be completed in a lab based science.

6) Social Studies requirements

Students will complete credits of social studies including: Washington State history in grades 7-8, World History, CWP1, United States history, CWP2, and Civics.

7) Arts Requirements

Students will complete two credits in performing or visual arts. One credit may be a Personalized Pathway Requirement, defined as related courses that lead to a specific post-high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student and based on the student's interests and High School and Beyond Plan, which may include Career and Technical Education, and are intended to provide a focus for the student's learning.

8) World Languages requirements

Both credits may be a Personalized Pathway Requirement. If the student has chosen a two-year or four-year degree pathway in their High School and Beyond Plan, the student must to earn two consecutive credits in world language.

9) Career and Technical Education

Two credits of Career and Technical Education are required. Students must complete a .5 credit course in Introduction to Business.

10) Complete Service Hour Requirement

Student will complete a yearly service hour requirement. Successful completion of this requirement will result in students earning an additional .5 credit per year.

11) Certificate of Academic Achievement

A student will receive a certificate of academic achievement only if they earn the appropriate number of credits required by the district, complete community service requirements, complete a senior presentation, complete the high school and beyond plan, and meet the standards on the high school required statewide assessment or state-approved alternative.

12) Special Education Services

A student shall satisfy coursework requirements according to his/her Individualized Education Program that shall serve as the basis for determining completion of graduation requirements and participation in the commencement ceremony. A student receiving special education shall satisfy state testing requirements which may be modified through the IEP. Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course. In lieu of the Certificate of Academic Achievement, these students may earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement as determined by their individual education plan.

13) Seal of Bi-literacy

The district will award the Washington Seal of Bi-literacy to students who have attended a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. Students who meet the criteria as established in WAC 392-410-350 will be awarded the seal on their high school diploma and transcript. The superintendent will implement procedures to determine eligibility.

14) Graduation Year

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school will be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten years.

15) Graduation Ceremonies:

Students must fulfill all graduation requirements by the end of the last term of their senior year in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

The following procedures are included to implement the graduation policy:

- a) Establishing the process for completion of the High School and Beyond Plan;
- b) Recommending course and credit requirements which satisfy the State Board of Education requirements:
- c) Determining which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement, including a process for determining the credits the district will recognize for courses taken through another program recognized by the state (e.g. another public school district or an approved private school) or those courses taken by students moving into the state from another state or country. Decisions regarding the recognition of credits earned before enrolling in the district will be based on the professional judgment of the high school principal or designee based on an evaluation of the student's former program and demonstrated knowledge and skills in the discipline for which credit is sought. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the superintendent within fifteen school days;
- d) Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public;
- e) Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training;
- f) Granting credit for correspondence, vocational-technical institutes and/or college courses for college or university course work the district has agreed to accept for high school credit. State law requires that the district award one high school credit for every five quarter hour credit or three semester hour credit successfully earned through a college or university, except for community college high school completion programs where the district awards the diploma.
- g) Granting credit for work experience;
- h) Granting credit based upon competence testing, in lieu of enrollment;

- i) Granting credit for high school courses completed before a student attended high school, to the extent that the course work exceeded the requirements for seventh or eighth grade;
- j) Preparing a list of all graduating students for the information of the board and release to the public;
- k) Preparing suitable diplomas and final transcripts for graduating seniors.

15) Diploma

A student shall be issued a diploma after completing the District's requirements for graduation. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript. A student's diploma or transcript may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged.

16) Withholding a Diploma

A student's diploma or transcript may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages, or the equivalency through voluntary work, the diploma or transcript will be released. When the damages or fines do not exceed \$100, the student or his/her parents will have the right to an appeal using the same process as used for short-term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Actions. When damages are in excess of \$100, the appeal process for long term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Actions will apply.

In the event that other forms of corrective actions are imposed for violations of school rules, the student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion will be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

- Cross References:
- 2418 – Waiver of High School Graduation Credits
 - 3412 – Automated External Defibrillators
 - 3520 – Student Fees, Fines or Charges
 - 3241 – Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Actions
 - 3110 – Qualification of Attendance and Placement

- Legal References:
- RCW 28A.230.090 High school graduation requirements or equivalencies – Reevaluation of graduation requirements – Review and authorization of proposed changes— Credit for courses taken before attending high school – Postsecondary credit equivalencies
 - RCW 28A.230.093 Social studies course credits – Civics coursework
 - RCW 28A.230.097 Career and technical high school course equivalencies
 - RCW 28A.230.120 High school diplomas – Issuance –Option to receive final transcripts – Notice
 - RCW 28A.230.122 International baccalaureate diplomas
 - RCW 28A.600.300-400 Running start program - Definition
 - RCW 28A.635.060 Defacing or injuring school property – Liability of pupil, parent or guardian – Withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts – Suspension and restitution – Voluntary work program as alternative – Rights protected
 - WAC 392-410 Courses of studies and equivalencies
 - WAC 180-51 High school graduation requirements
 - WAC 392-348 Secondary
 - WAC 392-121-182 Alternative learning experience requirements
 - WAC 392-169 Special service programs – Running start program
 - WAC 392-348 Secondary education
 - WAC 392-410 Courses of study and equivalencies
 - WAC 392-410-350 Seal of Biliteracy
 - WAC 392-415-070 Mandatory high school transcript contents

Management Resources:

2015 – October Policy Issue

2014 – December Issue

2013 – September Issue

2012 – April Issue

2011 – October Issue

2010 – June Issue

2009 – April Issue

2009 – February Issue

Policy News, August 2007 Graduation Requirements Modified by Legislature

Policy News, October 2004 Graduation Requirements: High School and Beyond Plans

Policy News, February 2004 High School Graduation Requirements

Policy News, December 2000 2004 High School Graduation Requirements Adopted

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