

Equivalency Credit Opportunities

Prior to course scheduling or course registration for the next school term, the district will provide information to students and their parents or legal guardians about meeting credit-based graduation requirements through equivalency courses.

I. Experiential Education Opportunities

The district may grant credit, including high school graduation credit, for school planned or approved learning experiences which may be conducted away from the facilities owned, operated, or supervised by the district or conducted primarily by individuals not employed by the district.

To grant credit for such experiences, a proposal for approval of credit must be submitted to the district's designated team.

The proposal shall include the following elements:

- (a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
- (b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
- (c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
- (d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
- (e) Description of how credits shall be determined (completion of a district-defined course or satisfactory demonstration of proficiency/mastery in the related state learning standards in accord with WAC 180-51-050(1) and WAC 180-51-051;
- (f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
- (g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
- (h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
- (i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
- (j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.

Approved experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following: School planned or approved learning experiences such as travel study, work study, private lessons, paid work, volunteer work, and education programs sponsored by governmental agencies.

II. Career and Technical Education Courses

On or after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency course offered by the district or accessed at a skill center will be offered for academic credit. Any approved state and local equivalency course offered by a host district in a skill center in which the district participates under an inter-district cooperative agreement will be honored as an equivalency course by the district. Students served at any core, branch, or satellite skill center campus must have access to academic credit for any approved local or state equivalency courses offered at those sites and in accordance with transcript requirements in RCW 28A.230.097.

The district may also adopt local course equivalencies for career and technical education courses that are not on the list of courses approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

Each high school will adopt core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the superintendent or a designee.

The district team will include a school administrator, the career and technical administrator, an instructor from the core academic subject area, an instructor from the appropriate career and technical course, a school counselor, and a representative from the curriculum department.

Career and technical courses approved for equivalency will be:

1. Aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations; and
2. Aligned with current industry standards, as evidenced in the curriculum frameworks. The local career and technical advisory committee will certify that courses meet industry standards.

III. Mastery/Competency-based credits

Students may obtain .5 Math mastery/competency-based credit for scoring a 3 or higher on the Washington State Smarter Balanced Math Assessment.

Students may obtain .5 English mastery/competency-based credit for scoring a 3 or higher on the Washington State Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment.

Students may obtain .5 Science mastery/competency-based credit for scoring a 3 or higher on the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science.

Students may obtain up to 4 World Language mastery/competency-based credits (see policy 2409).

Elective Credit for Paid Work Experience

Students ages 16 and older may earn up to two elective high school credit through paid work experience according to the requirements contained in chapter 28A.600 RCW, which include preapproval of a proposal and assessment of the student's grade-level proficiency on the state financial education learning standards. Credits earned through this policy do not restrict students from earning additional credits through cooperative worksite learning (WAC 392-410-315) through mastery/competency policy.

Students who are legally eligible for paid employment may earn elective credit for paid work experience. Students who meet the requirements below as determined by the appropriate school official will be awarded one-half elective credit for each 180 hours of paid, verified work experience. Students may earn up to a maximum of two elective high school credits through this process.

In order to be eligible to receive elective credit, the student's High School and Beyond Plan must be updated to reflect the paid work experience. In addition, the student's paid work experience must be approved in advance and in writing by the school counselor, principal, or principal designee. Approval is contingent upon the student's submission of the following information:

- Identification of the work-based sponsor (employer) who will serve as the point of contact for the employer and participate in supervising the student during the student's employment;
- A student narrative describing how the paid work experience will enable the student to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the goals of basic education, including those essential to understanding the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities as provided in RCW 28A.150.210(4); and
- A plan for demonstrating or otherwise assessing the student's:
 - Grade-level proficiencies on the state financial education learning standards for employment and income or financial decisions as provided in the state financial education learning standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469; and
 - Growth in proficiency in meeting the state financial education learning standards that occurred between pre-work and post-work experiences.

The hours worked may occur during a student's school day, outside of the regular school calendar, or in accordance with WAC 180-51-050 and 180-51-051. The district will verify the number of paid hours worked by the student at least once per term.

Courses taken before attending high school

The district will award high school credit for computer science courses taken before attending high school if either of the following occurs:

1. The course was taken with high school students, if the academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high school students enrolled in the class; or
2. The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high school credit because the course is similar or equivalent to a course offered at a high school in the district determined by the board.

Students who have taken and successfully completed high school courses under the circumstances above shall not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive credit.

IV. Computer Science Courses

AP courses

The board will approve Advanced Placement (AP) computer science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science, and may be used by a student to meet math or science graduation requirements. The superintendent or designee will adopt procedures to denote on the student's transcript that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who complete it in their senior year.

Mastery/Competency-based credits

The district may award academic credit for computer science to students based on student completion of a mastery/competency examination that is aligned with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI).

To receive mastery/competency-based credits for computer science, a student must take a mastery/competency examination that OSPI has found aligns with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and that aligns with course equivalency requirements adopted by OSPI. The number of credits awarded will be based on the student's performance on the mastery/competency examination.

Cross References: 2170 Career and Technical Education
2401 Financial Education Mastery-Based Learning and Credit
2410 High School Graduation Requirements

Legal References: RCW 28A.230.300 Computer Science
RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements—Access to career and technical course equivalencies—
Duties of school boards of directors—Waivers

RCW 28A.230.120, High School Diplomas – Issuance- Option to receive final transcripts –Notice

RCW 28A.230.097, Career and technical high school course equivalencies

WAC 180-51, High School Graduation Requirements

WAC 392-410, Courses of Study and Equivalencies

Management Resources: 2023 – December Issue
2019 – July Issue
2018 – May Issue
2013 – September Issue
2006 – August Issue