

RESOLUTION – EMERGENCY WAIVER OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CREDITS

BOARD RESOLUTION No. 20/21-05

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting, revising, and suspending local board policies;

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.230.090 authorizes the State Board of Education to set graduation requirements and authorizes local districts to decide whether a student has met the graduation requirements.

WHEREAS the Grand Coulee Dam School Board/Public Schools (“Board”) has adopted Policy 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements, which establishes that the board will establish graduation requirements that at a minimum satisfy those established by the State Board of Education.

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted and, as appropriate, implemented Policy 2418 – Waiver of High School Graduation Credits, which authorizes the Superintendent or designee to grant waivers of a maximum of two elective credits required for high school graduation based on an individual student’s circumstances.

WHEREAS, HB 1211 (March 2, 2021) authorized the State Board of Education to administer an emergency waiver program, which is separate from and in addition to the waiver of two elective credits addressed in Policy 2418 – Waiver of High School Credits and expires on August 31, 2021. The purpose of the emergency waiver program is to grant local school districts with flexibility so that students in the graduating class of 2021 or 2020 who were on track to graduate by August 31, 2021 are not negatively impacted by the response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The emergency waiver may include both core credit graduation requirements and flexible credit graduation requirements.

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to ensure for any district students in the graduating Class of 2021 or 2020 who were on track to graduate before the gubernatorial declaration of emergency and who would be negatively impacted by response to COVID-19, that the district comply with Chapter 180-111 WAC, which constitutes the State Board of Education’s emergency waiver program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Coulee Dam School Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent or designee to implement an emergency waiver program consistent with WAC 180-111 as the Superintendent or designee determines appropriate. The district will demonstrate a good faith effort, as defined in WAC 180-111-020, to help individual students meet credit-based graduation requirements through other options. Applications for waivers will be processed through the academic counselor. Any waiver

denials may be appealed to the building administrator; further appeals will be heard by a panel that includes the school counselor, educators with expertise in trauma informed education, culturally responsive education and if appropriate, Special Education, Migrant student issues/ELL. The district will consult with the individual student, and make a reasonable effort to consult with a parent or guardian of the student, and will make a reasonable effort to provide information about this waiver in the preferred languages of the student, and of the parent or guardian of the student if applicable. This information includes what is being waived for the individual student, potential benefits and limitations that could result from receiving the waiver, including impacts on high school graduation and postsecondary plans, the option for the individual student to decline the waiver and for the student to be provided with the opportunity to earn the credits needed to complete graduation requirements through continued enrollment beyond the planned graduation date. The district will maintain a record of courses and requirements waived as part of the individual student record and will report to the State Board of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district will consider equity in administering the emergency waiver. This consideration will seek to identify and mitigate potential disparate impacts of the emergency waiver and determine if any changes to the district's approach in administering the emergency waiver are needed before the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. The process for requesting, receiving or being denied a waiver will be published on the district website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. This resolution expires in tandem with WAC 180-111, which is August 31, 2021, and the force of the resolution sunsets on that day.

Adopted and approved this 25th day of March, 2021

By: [Signature]
Board President or Designee

Attest: [Signature]
Superintendent

Grand Coulee Dam School District
Adoption Date: