

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 – Outreach Program

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 Provided by the District

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 interdistrict 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.

The 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.
3. Recorded on the student's transcripts as the academic course the equivalence credit fulfills.

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 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.

III. Computer Science Courses

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
2410 - High School Graduation Requirements
2401 - Financial Education Mastery-Based Learning and Credit

Legal References: RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements-Access to career and technical course equivalencies-Duties of school boards of directors-Waivers
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
WAC 180-51 High school graduation requirements
WAC 392-410 Courses of study and equivalencies

Management Resources: 2019 - July Policy Issue
2018 - May Policy Issue
2013 - September Issue
Policy News, August 2006 Legislature Codifies Course Equivalency for Career and Technical Courses

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Classification: **Essential**

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