2026-27 High School Course Guide Changes

December 11, 2025

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The Purpose of Tonight's Presentation is to Review:

- Policy 613, Graduation requirements
- Legislative Requirements and Updates
- High school 2026-27 Course Catalog
- Timeline and process to submit and approve new courses
- Final list of courses approved for the 2026-2027 school year
- 2027-2028 Course Guide foreshadow



Policy 613: Graduation Requirements (Approved June 2021)

- **Four years** of **language arts** (12 trimester credits)
- **Three years** of **mathematics** (9 trimester credits)
- **Three years** of **science** (9 trimester credits)
- **Three and 1/2 years of social studies** (10 trimester credits)
- **One trimester credit** each of **health** and **physical education;**
- **Two trimester credits** in the **fine arts**
- **One Trimester credit Personal Finance** (new legislative requirement for Class of 2028 and beyond - for 11th grade 12 grade students)
- A minimum of **21 elective trimester credits**

Total of 66 credits

Upcoming changes to Graduation and Course Requirements Based on Legislation

- Students graduating in the class of 2028 and beyond, are required to complete a personal finance course for credit in grades 11, or 12 (added to 2026-27 Course Guide)
- High schools are required to offer an ethnic studies course aligned with state social studies standards by the 2026-27 school year (added to 26-27 Course Guide)
- SoWashCo Schools is required to create an American Indian Culture and Language Class for elective credit (added to 2026-27 Course Guide)



High School Course Guide

The 2026–27 High School Course Guide is now available on SoWashCo Schools' Registration website to help students plan for a successful high school experience.

Looking Ahead: Course Guide and Pathways

- From January to May 2026, Department of Teaching and Learning Services will work with principals to re-envision how the Course Guide is organized.

- Our plan is to organize courses in a way that demonstrates the connection to careers for students.

- For the 2027–28 guide, teachers will be invited to propose new courses aligned with pathways needing additional options.



Course Proposal Process/Timeline

Dates	Description
April 28, 2025	New course proposals were due from teachers. TLS Director shared initial list of proposals with Principals.
May 15, 2025	Review Team - high school principals/Asst Supt/TLS reviewed course proposals. A rubric used to score the course proposals.
May 15 - May 23, 2025	Principals/TLS Director follow up with applicants with additional questions/clarifications.
May 26, 2025	TLS Director notifies course proposal applicants.
November, 2025	Draft of course guide sent to principals and counselors for review.
November 11, 2025	2026-27 Course Guide finalized and shared with Communications
November 21, 2024	Schools finalize registration materials - Course Cards
December 9-17	High School Counselor visits to Middle Schools
January, 2026	Family information sessions
January 5 -16 , 2026	Registration

New Courses for 2026-27

Course Name	Department
Personal Finance *graduation requirement*	**Not-Department Specific**
AP Spanish Language and Culture, Service with WE	World Language
Spanish Immersion People, Cultures, and Language	World Language
Ethnic Studies	Not-Department Specific
Renewable Energy 2 (Online)	Science
Renewable Energy 3 (Online)	Science
Agribusiness: Cultivating Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Online)	Not-Department Specific
Baking and Pastry (Online)	FACS

New Online Courses for 2026-2027

Course Name	Department
Writing Your Own Music	Music
WGT AP Music Theory	Music
Ojibwe Language and Culture	Not-Department Specific
Personal Finance	Not-Department Specific
Lifetime Movement	Physical Education

Questions?