

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Senior high graduation is granted on the basis of successfully completing 22 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:

<u>GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2016</u>
English	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science (including 1 lab credit)	2.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits <i>(to include .5 Civics)</i>
US History, WA State History, World History, Contemporary Problems, Geography, Economics, Psychology or Political Science	
Health & Fitness - .5 Health, 1.5 Fitness	2.0 credits
Arts (Visual or Performing)	1.0 credit
Occupational Education	1.0 credit
<u>Electives</u>	<u>6.0 credits</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>22.0 credits</u>

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

- 1) Complete a 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
- 2) Complete English language arts requirements**
Students in the classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 must pass one of the following comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) exit exams: reading and writing portions of the statewide assessment or new ELA exit exam (administered beginning spring 2015) or new 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;

3) **Complete math requirements**

Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 must pass one end of course assessment (either Algebra 1 or Geometry or their integrated math equivalents) or state-approved alternative. Students in the classes of 2015 and beyond must pass one end of course assessments (Algebra I and Geometry or their integrated math equivalents), the New 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Comprehensive math test or state-approved alternative. Students in the class of 2019 and beyond must pass the 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Comprehensive Math Test; and

Students in the class of 2013 and beyond must complete mathematics courses in one of the following progressive sequences.

- a) Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II;
- b) Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III;
- c) Any combination of (a) and (b) in progressive sequence.

In lieu of a third credit of mathematics, students may choose an alternative mathematics course, if the parent/guardian agrees that the third credit mathematics elective is supportive of the student's education and career goals. Before approval of the elective third mathematics credit a meeting will be held with the student, the parent/guardian and school staff to discuss the student's High School and Beyond Plan and the mathematics requirements for post-secondary and career choices. A consent form to allow an alternative math course will signed by the parent/guardian, student and school staff to acknowledge that the parent and student understands the impact that this decision may have on the student's future educational and employment options.

4) **Complete science requirements**

Students in the class of 2017 and beyond must pass the biology end-of-course assessment or a state-approved alternative.

5) **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 a culminating project, complete the high school and beyond plan, and meet the standards on the high school required statewide assessment or state-approved alternative.

- 6) Students receiving **Special Education Services** 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.

- 7) **International Baccalaureate:** Students in the International Baccalaureate Program who fulfill the requirements for the International Baccalaureate diploma are considered to have met state high school graduation standards as long as:
- The student earns the number of credits required by the district for graduation; and
 - The student meets the standards on the required state assessments; and
 - The student completes the High School and Beyond Plan.

Fulfilling the requirements of the International Baccalaureate program means that the student has

- Successfully completed all required IB courses as scored by the school; and
- Passed all internal assessments as scored by the school; and
- Completed all required projects and products as scored by the school; and
- Completed the final examinations administered by the International Baccalaureate organization in each of the required subjects for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

9) **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.

- 10) **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:

- Establishing the process for completion of the High School and Beyond Plan;
- Recommending course and credit requirements which satisfy the State Board of Education requirements;
- 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;
- Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public;
- Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training;
- 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.

- Tenth and eleventh grade students and their parents will be notified annually of the Running Start Program;
- 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.



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