

WAC 180-51-068 State subject and credit requirements for high school graduation—Students entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017. The statewide subject areas and credits required for high school graduation, beginning July 1, 2015, for students who enter the ninth grade or begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program (the class of 2019), shall total twenty-four as required in this section, except as otherwise provided in subsections (12) and (13) of this section. All credits are to be aligned with the state's learning standards developed under RCW 28A.655.070 for the subject. The content of any course shall be determined by the local school district.

(1) Four **English** credits.

(2) Three **mathematics** credits that satisfy the requirements set forth in (a) through (e) of this subsection:

(a) Unless otherwise provided for in (b) of this subsection, the three mathematics credits required under this section must include:

(i) Algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I;

(ii) Geometry or integrated mathematics II; and

(iii) A third credit of high school mathematics, aligning with the student's interests and high school and beyond plan, with agreement of the student's parent or guardian. The high school and beyond plan must be provided to the student's parents or guardians in their native language if that language is one of the two most frequently spoken non-English languages of students in the district (RCW 28A.230.090). Districts are encouraged to provide plans to parents and guardians in additional languages as needed, to the extent feasible. If the parent or guardian is unavailable or does not indicate a preference for a specific course, the school counselor or principal may provide agreement with the plan.

(b) A student who prior to ninth grade successfully completes one or more high school level math courses with a passing grade that is automatically transcribed on the student's high school transcript in accordance with RCW 28A.230.090 and WAC 180-51-030, or a student who demonstrates mastery/competency in high school math subjects and has received credit for them, may use these credits to meet their math graduation requirements. Refer to WAC 180-51-030 for information about opting out of credits and numerical grades. Upon completion of algebra 1 or integrated math I, geometry or integrated math II, and a third credit of high school level math that aligns with the student's high school and beyond plan, the student should be encouraged to consider additional math courses, which align with the student's education and career goals in their high school and beyond plan.

(c) A student who prior to ninth grade successfully completes one or more high school level math courses with a passing grade and opts to receive no high school credit for such course(s) in accordance with RCW 28A.230.090 and WAC 180-51-030, or a student who demonstrated mastery/competency in these subjects but did not receive high school credits, may either:

(i) Repeat the course(s) for credit in high school; or

(ii) Earn three credits of high school mathematics in different math subjects than those completed before high school. The student must take algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I and geometry or integrated math II in high school if the student did not complete these courses at a high school level prior to high school, but the student does not need to repeat courses if the student already took the courses at a high school level.

(3) Three **science** credits, at least two of which must be in laboratory science as provided in subsection (17)(a) of this section. A student may choose the content of the third credit of science, based on the student's interests and high school and beyond plan, with agreement of the student's parent or guardian. The high school and beyond plan must be provided to the student's parents or guardians in their native language if that language is one of the two most frequently spoken non-English languages of students in the district (RCW 28A.230.090). Districts are encouraged to provide plans to parents and guardians in additional languages as needed, to the extent feasible. If the parent or guardian is unavailable or does not indicate a preference for a specific course, agreement may be provided by the school counselor or principal.

(4) Three **social studies** credits (two credits prescribed courses, plus a one credit social studies elective) and a noncredit requirement. The social studies requirement shall consist of the following mandatory courses or equivalencies:

(a) One credit shall be required in United States history.

(b) Successful completion of Washington state history and government shall be required, subject to the provisions of RCW 28A.230.170, 28A.230.090 and WAC 392-410-120, and shall include information on the cultures, histories, and governments of the American Indian peoples who are the first inhabitants of the state. Successful completion of Washington state history must be noted on each student's transcript. The Washington state history and government requirement may be waived by the principal for students who:

(i) Have successfully completed a state history and government course of study in another state; or

(ii) Are in eleventh or twelfth grade and who have not completed a course of study in Washington's history and state government because of previous residence outside the state.

(c) One-half credit shall be required in contemporary world history, geography, and problems. Courses in economics, sociology, civics, political science, international relations, or related courses with emphasis on contemporary world problems may be accepted as equivalencies.

(d) One-half credit shall be required in civics and include at a minimum the content listed in RCW 28A.230.093.

(5) One-half credit in **health**.

(6) One and one-half in **physical education**. Students may be excused from the physical education requirement under RCW 28A.230.050. Such excused students shall be required to demonstrate competency/mastery of the knowledge portion of the fitness requirement, in accordance with written district policy. Such policies should be based upon addressing health and physical education learning standards as well as alternative means of engaging in physical activities, as directed in RCW 28A.210.365.

(7) Two **arts** credits. The essential content in this subject area may be satisfied in the visual or performing arts. One of the two arts credits may be replaced with a personalized pathway requirement as provided in subsection (17)(c) of this section.

(8) One credit in **career and technical education**.

(a) A career and technical education credit means a credit resulting from a course in a career and technical education program or occupational education credit as contained in the career and technical education program standards of the office of the superintendent of public instruction. "Occupational education" means credits resulting

from a series of learning experiences designed to assist the student to acquire and demonstrate competency of skills under student learning goal four and which skills are required for success in current and emerging occupations. At a minimum, these competencies shall align with the definition of an exploratory course as contained in the career and technical education program standards of the office of the superintendent of public instruction. Districts are encouraged to offer career and technical education programs, as defined in RCW 28A.700.010.

(b) An exception may be made for private schools as provided in WAC 180-90-160.

(c) A student who earns credit through a career and technical education course determined by the district or by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to be equivalent to a noncareer and technical education core course (RCW 28A.700.070 and subsection (14) of this section), will not be required to pass a course in the noncareer and technical education subject to earn a credit in that subject. The student earns one credit while meeting two graduation requirements, a career and technical education requirement and the noncareer and technical education subject requirement. The total number of credits required for graduation remain unchanged, and the student will need to earn an additional elective credit.

(9) Two credits in **world languages or personalized pathway requirements**. If the student has chosen a four-year degree pathway under subsection (11) of this section, the student shall be advised to earn two credits in world languages.

(10) Four credits of **electives**.

(11) Each student shall have a **high school and beyond plan** to guide his or her high school experience, as described in WAC 180-51-220.

(12) A school district wishing to implement the requirements for high school graduation for students who enter the ninth grade or begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program on July 1, 2016, or July 1, 2017, rather than July 1, 2015, may apply to the state board of education for a temporary waiver of the requirements of this section. The state board of education shall post an application form on its website for use by districts seeking this waiver.

(a) An application for a waiver must:

(i) Meet the requirements of chapter 217, Laws of 2014 (E2SSB 6552), which include describing why the waiver is being requested, the specific impediments preventing timely implementation of the high school graduation requirements established in subsections (1) through (10) of this section, and the efforts that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating class proposed under the waiver.

(ii) Be accompanied by a resolution adopted by the district board of directors requesting the waiver. The resolution must state the entering freshman class or classes for whom the waiver is requested, and be signed by the board chair or president and the district superintendent.

(b) A district implementing a waiver shall continue to be subject to the requirements of WAC 180-51-067 during the school year or years for which the waiver has been granted.

(c) Nothing shall prevent a district granted a waiver from electing to implement subsections (1) through (11) of this section during the term for which the waiver is granted. A district granted a waiver that elects to implement subsections (1) through (11) of this section

shall provide notification of such decision to the state board of education.

(d) The state board of education shall post the application for each waiver on its public website.

(13) A school district that grants high school diplomas may waive up to two of the credits required for graduation under this section for individual students for reason of a student's circumstances, as defined by the district. Unless otherwise provided in law, students granted a waiver under this subsection must earn the seventeen required subject credits in subsections (1) through (7) of this section, which may be by satisfactory demonstration of competence under WAC 180-51-050. The waiving of credits for individual students for reason of a student's circumstances must be in accordance with written policies adopted by resolution of each board of directors of a district that grants diplomas.

(14) Career and technical education courses determined by the district or by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to be equivalent to a noncareer and technical education course in accordance with RCW 28A.700.070 can be taken for credit in place of that course. Equivalencies may be determined for any of the core credit graduation requirements of subsections (1) through (7) of this section.

(15) Students who complete and pass all required International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses are considered to have satisfied state subject and credit requirements for graduation from a public high school, subject to the provisions of RCW 28A.230.090, 28A.230.170, and chapter 28A.230 RCW.

(16) A student with an individualized education program must be provided the opportunity to meet graduation requirements that align with the student's high school and beyond plan pursuant to WAC 180-51-115.

(17) Definitions:

(a) "Laboratory science" means any instruction that provides opportunities for students to interact directly with the material world, or with data drawn from the material world, using the tools, data collection techniques, models and theories of science. A laboratory science course meeting the requirement of subsection (3) of this section may include courses conducted in classroom facilities specially designed for laboratory science, or coursework in traditional classrooms, outdoor spaces, or other settings which accommodate elements of laboratory science as identified in this subsection;

(b) "Personalized pathway" means a locally determined body of coursework identified in a student's high school and beyond plan that is deemed necessary to attain the post-secondary career or educational goals chosen by the student;

(c) "Personalized pathway requirements" means up to three course credits chosen by a student under subsections (7) and (9) of this section that are included in a student's personalized pathway and prepare the student to meet specific post-secondary career or educational goals.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. WSR 20-01-101, § 180-51-068, filed 12/13/19, effective 1/13/20. Statutory Authority: 2014 c 217 and RCW 28A.230.090. WSR 14-19-032, § 180-51-068, filed 9/8/14, effective 10/9/14.]