

# Chapter 180-51 WAC

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**WAC**

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**DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER**

180-51-010	Purpose. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-010, filed 5/17/84.] Repealed by 00-23-032, filed 11/8/00, effective 12/9/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.	
180-51-055	Minimum credits for high school graduation. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100. 93-04-115, § 180-51-055, filed 2/3/93, effective 3/6/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-055, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-055, filed 5/17/84.] Repealed by 00-19-108, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.	180-51-105
180-51-062	Fine, visual, or performing arts requirement. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-062, filed 6/5/85.] Repealed by 88-01-109 (Order 18-87), filed 12/22/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.062 and 28A.05.064.	
180-51-063	Certificate of mastery—High school graduation requirement—Effective date. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 03-14-118, § 180-51-063, filed 6/30/03, effective 7/31/03; 01-13-113, § 180-51-063, filed 6/20/01, effective 7/21/01; 00-13-039, § 180-51-063, filed 6/14/00, effective 7/15/00; 00-04-047, § 180-51-063, filed 1/27/00, effective 2/27/00.] Repealed by 04-23-010, filed 11/4/04, effective 12/5/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.	180-51-110
180-51-064	Certificate of mastery—Validity and reliability study. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-04-047, § 180-51-064, filed 1/27/00, effective 2/27/00.] Repealed by 04-23-010, filed 11/4/04, effective 12/5/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.	
180-51-065	Sequential requirement for English, mathematics, and science—Exception for transfer students from without the state, for students who fail a required course, and	180-51-120

special accommodations. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-065, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-065, filed 5/17/84.] Repealed by 00-19-108, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.

Laboratory science requirement. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-070, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-070, filed 5/17/84.] Repealed by 00-19-108, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.

Occupational education requirement. [Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-080, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.-060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-080, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-080, filed 5/17/84.] Repealed by 00-19-108, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090.

Physical education requirement—Excuse. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-085, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.100. 92-08-078, § 180-51-085, filed 3/31/92, effective 5/1/92; 91-11-018, § 180-51-085, filed 5/6/91, effective 6/6/91. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-085, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-085, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-085, filed 5/17/84.] Decodified by 06-14-009, filed 6/22/06, effective 6/22/06. Statutory Authority: 2006 c 263. Recodified as WAC 392-410-136.

Temporary exemption from course and credit requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-100, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.-100. 93-04-115, § 180-51-100, filed 2/3/93, effective 3/6/93. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-100, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-100, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-100, filed 5/17/84.] Decodified by 06-14-009, filed 6/22/06, effective 6/22/06. Statutory Authority: 2006 c 263. Recodified as WAC 392-410-117.

Exceptions to graduation requirements for former educational center students. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-105, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.410.010. 94-03-103 (Order 4-94), § 180-51-105, filed 1/19/94, effective 2/19/94. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-105, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-105, filed 5/17/84.] Decodified by 06-14-009, filed 6/22/06, effective 6/22/06. Statutory Authority: 2006 c 263. Recodified as WAC 392-410-330.

Equivalency credit for alternative learning experiences, nonhigh school courses, electronically mediated courses, work experience, and challenges. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 05-23-058, § 180-51-110, filed 11/10/05, effective 12/11/05; 00-19-108, § 180-51-110, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-110, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-110, filed 5/17/84.] Decodified by 06-14-009, filed 6/22/06, effective 6/22/06. Statutory Authority: 2006 c 263. Recodified as WAC 392-410-340.

Washington National Guard youth challenge program—Course content—Credits. [Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 05-23-058, § 180-51-120, filed 11/10/05, effective 12/11/05.] Decodified by 06-14-009, filed

6/22/06, effective 6/22/06. Statutory Authority: 2006 c 263. Recodified as WAC 392-410-327.

**WAC 180-51-001 Education reform vision.** (1) The state is shifting from a time and credit-based system of education to a standards and performance-based education system. Certain ways of thinking about time must shift in order to support the ongoing implementation of school reform. The board's long-term vision of a performance-based education system includes:

(a) No references to grade levels or linking a student's educational progress to a particular age. Instead, learning is viewed in terms of developmental progress, academically and vocationally, so that while the curriculum may be sequential the student moves through it at her or his developmental pace, regardless of age;

(b) An understanding that in the absence of other important information, a student's grade point average and performance on the Washington assessment of student learning do not provide a complete picture of the student's abilities and accomplishments;

(c) An understanding that our concept of school needs to expand and take into account that education and learning are about connected learning experiences, which can and do occur inside and outside the physical boundaries of a school building; and

(d) An understanding that students do not all learn in the same way (there are multiple learning styles), that teachers do not all instruct in the same way (there are multiple teaching styles and strategies), and these facts suggest that it should be possible to assess students' performance and achievement in multiple ways while maintaining common, high expectations and standards for learning.

(2) Long-term, as the performance-based education system continues to evolve, the state board of education believes that there should be an on-going review of assessment administration issues. The state board envisions a time when state assessments are administered during one or more assessment windows annually. During these times, students are allowed to take the appropriate norm-referenced or criterion-referenced state assessment based upon the collective determination by the student, the student's parent(s), teacher(s), and counselor that the student is developmentally ready to take the assessment, rather than because the student is a particular age or is in a particular grade.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-001, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00.]

**WAC 180-51-003 Intent of graduation requirements.**

(1) The state board of education is responsible for establishing minimum high school graduation requirements that appropriately balance:

(a) Statewide public expectations for all graduating students;

(b) High, meaningful, and fair requirements every student can meet;

(c) The unique characteristics of and differing resources among all school districts and high schools in Washington; and

(d) Recognition that some students' educational plans may not include college or may include application for

admission to a postsecondary institution one year or more after being granted a high school diploma.

(2) In order to support the continuing refinement of the standards and performance-based system of education, encourage and facilitate local innovation, and realize the vision under WAC 180-51-001, it is the intent of the state board of education to enact changes that will:

(a) Align the statewide minimum high school graduation requirements with the goal of the basic education act under RCW 28A.150.210 and the mission of the common school system under WAC 392-400-210;

(b) Allow districts the optional discretion to define and award high school credit based on demonstrated performance that is not tied to a state minimum number of hours of instruction or instructional activities;

(c) Assure that the essential academic learning requirements developed under RCW 28A.655.070(2) are taught in the high school curriculum;

(d) Assure that students are aware of the connection between their education and possible career opportunities as referenced in RCW 28A.150.210(4) and WAC 392-415-090; and

(e) Assure that students are provided the opportunity to effectively prepare for the secondary Washington assessment of student learning and earn the certificate of academic achievement required under RCW 28A.655.061(2) recognizing that the certificate of academic achievement, along with other state and local requirements, represents attainment of the knowledge and skills that are necessary for high school graduation.

(3) It is the state board's view that the creative development and application of integrated curriculum within existing resources will significantly facilitate the implementation of the graduation requirements under WAC 180-51-061. The board strongly encourages districts to:

(a) Implement curriculum that includes courses that incorporate the best applied, theoretical, academic or vocational features as authorized under RCW 28A.230.010;

(b) Emphasize the integration of academic and vocational education in educational pathways as required under RCW 28A.655.060 (3)(c); and

(c) Consider using the model curriculum integrating vocational and academic education as it is developed by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.300.-235.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 07-07-051, § 180-51-003, filed 3/14/07, effective 4/14/07; 00-23-032, § 180-51-003, filed 11/8/00, effective 12/9/00.]

**WAC 180-51-005 Authority and purpose.**

(1) The authority for this chapter is RCW 28A.230.090 which authorizes and requires the state board of education to establish high school graduation requirements or equivalencies for students.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to establish high school graduation requirements, including policies and procedures for equivalencies, for students who commence the ninth grade or the equivalent of a four-year high school program subsequent to July 1, 2004. Graduation requirements and policies and procedures for equivalencies for students who commence the ninth grade or the equivalent of a four-year high

school program prior to July 1, 2004, are codified in WAC 180-51-060 and shall remain in effect for such students pursuant to WAC 180-51-035.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-23-032, § 180-51-005, filed 11/8/00, effective 12/9/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100. 93-04-115, § 180-51-005, filed 2/3/93, effective 3/6/93. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-005, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.062. 86-20-053 (Order 11-86), § 180-51-005, filed 9/29/86. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-005, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-015 Application of chapter to approved private schools and community colleges.** High school diplomas granted by approved private schools and by community colleges shall meet the requirements of this chapter. References in this chapter to the board of directors of a school district shall apply to the governing board of the approved private school or the community college district affected. References within this chapter to school district shall refer to the approved private school or community college district. References within this chapter to high school shall refer to each approved private school or each community college.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-015, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-020 Additional local standards.** Nothing within this chapter shall preclude the board of directors of any district offering a high school diploma from establishing such additional course, credit, and test requirements as deemed desirable. A district may not adopt any policy which requires enrollment for either (a) a minimum number of semesters or trimesters or (b) a minimum number of courses in a semester or trimester which exceeds the enrollment time or courses necessary for a student to meet established course, credit, and test requirements for high school graduation.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-020, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-025 Local school district application of state requirements.** The content of courses and the determination of which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement shall be determined locally in accordance with written policies adopted by boards of directors of districts: Provided, That if a foreign language graduation requirement is established, credits earned in American sign language shall count toward the completion of the requirement.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-025, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100. 93-04-115, § 180-51-025, filed 2/3/93, effective 3/6/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 89-12-061 (Order 10-89), § 180-51-025, filed 6/6/89. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-025, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-030 High school credit for courses taken before attending high school.** See RCW 28A.230.-090(4).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-030, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100. 93-04-115, § 180-51-030, filed 2/3/93, effective 3/6/93; 91-01-066, § 180-51-030, filed 12/14/90, effective 1/14/91. Statutory Authority:

(9/21/10)

Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-030, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-035 Applicable standards for graduation for students under age twenty-one—Applicable standards for graduation for students age twenty-one or older—Amendments to this chapter.** (1) All students entering a high school program in Washington state shall be assigned an expected graduation year as required by federal law and this section. Once students are assigned a graduation year, they will be aligned to the requirements for that specific graduating class and subject to the provisions of this section.

(a) Students shall be assigned an expected graduation year based on the year they commence 9th grade, or for out-of-district and out-of-state transfer students, based on local district policy: Provided, That the expected graduation year for students receiving special education services shall be assigned and based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determination in the year in which the student turns sixteen.

(b) Students shall have the right and the obligation to meet the minimum graduation requirements in place for their expected graduation year designated at the time they enter a district high school, regardless of what year they actually graduate.

(2) A student under age twenty-one shall have the right to graduate in accordance with the standards in effect for the school of graduation for any year since such student commenced the ninth grade or the equivalent of a four-year high school program and until the student turns age twenty-one.

(3)(a) A student age twenty-one or older who earns a high school diploma through the adult high school completion option under WAC 180-51-053 shall be required to meet the state minimum graduation credit requirements under WAC 180-51-060 or 180-51-061, depending on when the student began their high school program. Such students shall not be required to meet the following state minimum graduation requirements under WAC 180-51-061: Certificate of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement;

(b) The state board of education reserves the prerogative to determine if and when the waived requirements under (a) of this subsection shall be required to earn an adult high school completion diploma.

(4) All subsequent amendments to this chapter and all subsequent local standards shall apply prospectively to the students who enter the ninth grade or begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program subsequent to the amendments.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.230 RCW and RCW 28B.50.915. 05-21-007, § 180-51-035, filed 10/6/05, effective 11/6/05; 04-20-093, § 180-51-035, filed 10/5/04, effective 11/5/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 00-19-108, § 180-51-035, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-035, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-040 Copies of graduation requirements for each year.** Each high school shall keep on file for student and public inspection a copy of the state board of education rules and guidelines regarding high school graduation requirements and procedures for equivalencies applicable for the school year, including the preceding ten years. Any

locally adopted high school graduation requirements and procedures for equivalencies shall also be kept on file with such state requirements. Copies of state requirements by year also shall be kept on file in the office of the state board of education.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 00-19-108, § 180-51-040, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW, 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-040, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-045 Notice to students, parents, and guardians.** Commencing with the beginning of the ninth grade, or the equivalent of a four-year high school program, and each year thereafter, each high school shall provide each student and his or her parents or guardians with a copy of the high school graduation requirements applicable to each student and a progress report at the close of each school year thereafter of each individual student's progress toward meeting those requirements. If a student is not making normal progress toward such requirements, the high school shall notify the student and parents or guardians of alternative education experiences, including summer school opportunities available in the community, if any, or in close proximity.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 00-19-108, § 180-51-040, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW, 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-045, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-050 High school credit—Definition.** As used in this chapter the term "high school credit" shall mean:

(1) Grades nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program, and grades seven and eight under the provisions of RCW 28A.230.090 (4) and (5):

(a) One hundred fifty hours of planned instructional activities approved by the district; or

(b) Satisfactory demonstration by a student of clearly identified competencies established pursuant to a process defined in written district policy. Districts are strongly advised to confirm with the higher education coordinating board that the award of competency-based high school credit meets the minimum college core admissions standards set by the higher education coordinating board for admission into a public, baccalaureate institution.

(2) College and university course work. At the college or university level, five quarter or three semester hours shall equal 1.0 high school credit: Provided, That for the purpose of this subsection, "college and university course work" means course work that generally is designated 100 level or above by the college or university.

(3) Community/technical college high school completion program - Diploma awarded by community/technical colleges. Five quarter or three semester hours of community/technical college high school completion course work shall equal 1.0 high school credit: Provided, That for purposes of awarding equivalency credit under this subsection, college and university high school completion course work includes course work that is designated below the 100 level by the college and the course work is developmental education at grade levels nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program. (See also WAC 180-51-053)

(4) Community/technical college high school completion program - Diploma awarded by school district. A minimum of .5 and a maximum of 1.0 high school credit may be

awarded for every five quarter or three semester hours of community/technical college high school completion course work: Provided, That for purposes of awarding equivalency credit under this subsection, college and university high school completion course work includes course work that is designated below the 100 level by the college and the course work is developmental education at grade levels nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program. (See also WAC 180-51-053)

(5) Each high school district board of directors shall adopt a written policy for determining the awarding of equivalency credit authorized under subsection (4) of this section. The policy shall apply uniformly to all high schools in the district.

(6) Each high school district board of directors shall adopt a written policy regarding the recognition and acceptance of earned credits. The policy shall apply to all high schools in the district. The policy may include reliance on the professional judgment of the building principal or designee in determining whether or not a credit meets the district's standards for recognition and acceptance of a credit. The policy shall include an appeal procedure to the district if it includes reliance on the professional judgment of the building principal or designee.

(7) A student must first obtain a written release from their school district to enroll in a high school completion program under subsection (3) of this section if the student has not reached age eighteen or whose class has not graduated.

(8) The state board of education shall notify the state board for community and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board of any school or school district that awards high school credit as authorized under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.230 RCW, 05-19-105, § 180-51-050, filed 9/20/05, effective 10/21/05. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.230 RCW and RCW 28B.50.915, 04-20-093, § 180-51-050, filed 10/5/04, effective 11/5/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.220(4), 28A.305.140, and 28A.305.130(6), 04-04-093, § 180-51-050, filed 2/3/04, effective 3/5/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 00-23-032, § 180-51-050, filed 11/8/00, effective 12/9/00; 99-10-093, § 180-51-050, filed 5/4/99, effective 6/4/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.305.130, 97-08-020, § 180-51-050, filed 3/25/97, effective 4/25/97; 96-09-027, § 180-51-050, filed 4/9/96, effective 5/10/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.-090, 28A.305.130 and 1994 c 222, 95-16-063, § 180-51-050, filed 7/27/95, effective 8/27/95. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090(1) and 28A.305.130 (8) and (9), 94-13-017, § 180-51-050, filed 6/3/94, effective 7/4/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 94-03-100 (Order 1-94), § 180-51-050, filed 1/19/94, effective 9/1/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060, 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-050, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW, 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-050, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-053 Community college high school diploma programs.** (1)(a) **Minimum requirements for high school diploma.** The minimum requirements and procedures for the issuance of a high school diploma by or through a community or technical college district shall be as prescribed by the state board of education in this section and chapters 180-51 and 180-56 WAC or as set forth in RCW 28B.50.535 (2) or (3).

(b) Any high school graduation diploma issued by or through a community or technical college district shall certify that the diploma is issued in compliance with high school graduation requirements established by the state board of

education and procedures established by the superintendent of public instruction or as set forth in RCW 28B.50.535 (2) or (3).

**(2) Provisions governing program for persons eighteen years of age and over.**

(a) The appropriate school district, community college, or technical college education official shall evaluate the previous educational records of the student and may provide evaluative testing to determine the student's educational level. The official shall recommend an appropriate course or courses of study and upon the successful completion of such study the student will be eligible for the high school diploma.

(b) Satisfaction of minimum course requirements may be met by one or more of the following methods with the applicable institution granting credit verifying completion of course requirements.

(i) Actual completion of courses regularly conducted in high school;

- (ii) Technical college;
- (iii) Community college;
- (iv) Approved correspondence or extension courses;
- (v) Supervised independent study; or
- (vi) Testing in specific subject areas.

(c) The appropriate education official shall exercise reasonable judgment in appraising the educational experience of the student either in or out of a formal school program to determine the degree to which the student has satisfied the minimum credit requirements for completion of the high school program. Consideration may be given to work experience, vocational training, civic responsibilities discharged by the adult and other evidences of educational attainment.

(d) A high school diploma shall be granted to each individual who satisfactorily meets the requirements for high school completion. The diploma shall be issued by the appropriate school district, community college, or technical college: Records of diplomas issued under the provisions of this subsection shall be maintained by the issuing agency.

**(3) Provisions governing program for persons under eighteen years of age.**

(a) The high school principal shall evaluate the previous educational record of the individual and prior to his or her enrollment in courses and in cooperation with the appropriate education official of a community college or technical college shall approve the program of studies leading to the high school diploma.

(b) The student must be assigned a program supervisor.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 10-12-082, § 180-51-053, filed 6/1/10, effective 7/2/10. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.230 RCW and RCW 28B.50.915. 04-20-093, § 180-51-053, filed 10/5/04, effective 11/5/04.]

**WAC 180-51-060 Minimum subject areas for high school graduation—Students entering the ninth grade before July 1, 2004.** (1) The minimum subject areas and credits therein shall be:

SUBJECT	CREDIT
English	3
Mathematics	2
Science*	2
Social Studies	2 1/2

(9/21/10)

SUBJECT	CREDIT
United States History and Government	(1)
Washington State History and Government	(1/2)**
Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems	(1)**
Occupational Education***	1
Physical Education	2
Restricted Elective	**** 1

\*At least one credit of the two science credits shall be in a laboratory science.

\*\*See WAC 180-51-075 for equivalencies.

\*\*\*"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 proposed or adopted in the career and technical education program standards of the superintendent of public instruction.

\*\*\*\*This one credit requirement must be selected from visual or performing arts or any of the subject areas listed above.

Electives	5 1/2
Total	19

(2) The minimum elective credits shall be met by additional courses in the required subject areas, by specific local district requirements, or by any course offered pursuant to WAC 180-50-115.

(3) In accordance with WAC 180-51-035, this section shall expire on June 30, 2014, for those students who begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program prior to July 1, 2004.

(4) The state board of education and superintendent of public instruction are not authorized by law to issue a high school diploma.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.305.215(8), 28A.230.090. 08-18-013, § 180-51-060, filed 8/22/08, effective 9/22/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 01-13-112, § 180-51-060, filed 6/20/01, effective 7/21/01; 00-19-108, § 180-51-060, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.062 and 28A.05.064. 88-01-109 (Order 18-87), § 180-51-060, filed 12/22/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060. 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-060, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-060, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-061 Minimum requirements for high school graduation—Students entering the ninth grade as of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2009.** (1) The statewide minimum subject areas and credits required for high school graduation for students who enter the ninth grade or begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program as of July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2009, shall total 19 as listed below.

(a) Three **English** credits (reading, writing, and communications) that at minimum align with grade level expectations for ninth and tenth grade, plus content that is determined by the district. Assessment shall include the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning beginning 2008.

(b) Two **mathematics** credits that at minimum align with mathematics grade level expectations for ninth and tenth grade, plus content that is determined by the district. Assessment shall include the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning beginning 2008.

(c) Two **science** credits (physical, life, and earth) that at minimum align with grade level expectations for ninth and tenth grade, plus content that is determined by the district. At least one credit in laboratory science is required which shall be defined locally. Assessment shall include the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning beginning 2010.

(d) Two and one-half **social studies** credits that at minimum align with the state's essential academic learning requirements in civics, economics, geography, history, and social studies skills at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in social studies at the high school level by 2008-09. In addition, districts shall require students to complete a classroom-based assessment in civics in the eleventh or twelfth grade also by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.095). The social studies requirement shall consist of the following mandatory courses or equivalencies:

(i) One credit shall be required in United States history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the United States. No other course content may be substituted as an equivalency for this requirement.

(ii) Under the provisions of RCW 28A.230.170 and 28A.230.090, one-half credit shall be required in Washington state history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the state of Washington and is encouraged to include information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian people who were the first inhabitants of the state.

(A) For purposes of the Washington state history and government requirement only, the term "secondary student" shall mean a student who is in one of the grades seven through twelve. If a district offers this course in the seventh or eighth grade, it can still count towards the state history and government graduation requirement. However, the course should only count as a high school credit if 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 as determined by the school district board of directors (RCW 28A.230.090 (4)).

(B) The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience approved by the local school principal under written district policy.

(C) Secondary school students who have completed and passed a state history and government course of study in another state may have the Washington state history and government requirement waived by their principal. The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions required under RCW 28A.230.170 shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience

approved by the school principal under a written district policy.

(D) After completion of the tenth grade and prior to commencement of the eleventh grade, eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer from another state, and who have or will have earned two credits in social studies at graduation, may have the Washington state history requirement waived by their principal if without such a waiver they will not be able to graduate with their class.

(iii) One 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 current problems may be accepted as equivalencies.

(e) Two **health and fitness** credits that at minimum align with current essential academic learning requirements at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the local school district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in health and fitness at the high school level by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.095).

(i) The fitness portion of the requirement shall be met by course work in fitness education. The content of fitness courses shall be determined locally under WAC 180-51-025. Suggested fitness course outlines shall be developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. Students may be excused from the physical portion of the fitness requirement under RCW 28A.230.050. Such excused students shall be required to substitute equivalency credits in accordance with policies of boards of directors of districts, including demonstration of the knowledge portion of the fitness requirement.

(ii) "Directed athletics" shall be interpreted to include community-based organized athletics.

(f) One **arts** credit that at minimum is aligned with current essential academic learning requirements at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the local school district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in arts at the high school level by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.095). The essential content in this subject area may be satisfied in the visual or performing arts.

(g) One credit in **occupational education**. "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 proposed or adopted in the career and technical education program standards of the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is determined at the local district level.

(h) Five and one-half electives: Study in a world language other than English or study in a world culture may sat-

isfy any or all of the required electives. The assessment of achieved competence in these subject areas is determined at the local district level.

(i) Each student shall complete a culminating project for graduation. The project shall consist of the student demonstrating both their learning competencies and preparations related to learning goals three and four. Each district shall define the process to implement this graduation requirement, including assessment criteria, in written district policy.

(j) Each student shall have a high school and beyond plan for their high school experience, including what they expect to do the year following graduation.

(k) Each student shall attain a certificate of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement. The tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning and Washington alternate assessment system shall determine attainment.

(2) State board of education approved private schools under RCW 28A.305.130(5) may, but are not required to, align their curriculums with the state learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210 or the essential academic learning requirements under RCW 28A.655.070.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.305.215(8), 28A.230.090. 08-18-013, § 180-51-061, filed 8/22/08, effective 9/22/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 07-07-051, § 180-51-061, filed 3/14/07, effective 4/14/07; 04-23-004, § 180-51-061, filed 11/4/04, effective 12/5/04; 04-04-092, § 180-51-061, filed 2/3/04, effective 3/5/04; 01-13-114, § 180-51-061, filed 6/20/01, effective 7/21/01; 00-23-032, § 180-51-061, filed 11/8/00, effective 12/9/00.]

**WAC 180-51-066 Minimum requirements for high school graduation—Students entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2009.** (1) The statewide minimum subject areas and credits required for high school graduation, beginning July 1, 2009, for students who enter the ninth grade or begin the equivalent of a four-year high school program, shall total twenty as listed below.

(a) Three **English** credits (reading, writing, and communications) that at minimum align with grade level expectations for ninth and tenth grade, plus content that is determined by the district. Assessment shall include the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning beginning 2008.

(b) Three **mathematics** credits that align with the high school mathematics standards as developed and revised by the office of superintendent of public instruction and satisfy the requirements set forth below:

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

- (A) Algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I;
- (B) Geometry or integrated mathematics II; and
- (C) Algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III.

(ii) A student may elect to pursue a third credit of high school-level mathematics, other than algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) The student's elective choice is based on a career oriented program of study identified in the student's high school and beyond plan that is currently being pursued by the student;

(B) The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) (or designee for the student if a parent or guardian is unavailable) agree that

the third credit of mathematics elected is a more appropriate course selection than algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III because it will better serve the student's education and career goals;

(C) A meeting is held with the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s) (or designee for the student if a parent or guardian is unavailable), and a high school representative for the purpose of discussing the student's high school and beyond plan and advising the student of the requirements for credit bearing two and four year college level mathematics courses; and

(D) The school has the parent(s)/guardian(s) (or designee for the student if a parent or guardian is unavailable) sign a form acknowledging that the meeting with a high school representative has occurred, the information as required was discussed, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) (or designee for the student if a parent or guardian is unavailable) agree that the third credit of mathematics elected is a more appropriate course selection given the student's education and career goals.

(iii) Courses in (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection may be taken currently in the following combinations:

(A) Algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I may be taken concurrently with geometry or integrated mathematics II.

(B) Geometry or integrated mathematics II may be taken concurrently with algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III or a third credit of mathematics to the extent authorized in (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(iv) Equivalent career and technical education (CTE) mathematics courses meeting the requirements set forth in RCW 28A.230.097 can be taken for credit instead of any of the mathematics courses set forth in (b)(i) of this subsection if the CTE mathematics courses are recorded on the student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school department designation and course title.

(v) A student who prior to ninth grade successfully completed algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I; and/or geometry or integrated mathematics II, but does not request high school credit for such course(s) as provided in RCW 28A.230.090, may either:

- (A) Repeat the course(s) for credit in high school; or
- (B) Complete three credits of mathematics as follows:

(I) A student who has successfully completed algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I shall:

- Earn the first high school credit in geometry or integrated mathematics II;
- Earn the second high school credit in algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III; and
- Earn the third high school credit in a math course that is consistent with the student's education and career goals.

(II) A student who has successfully completed algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I, and geometry or integrated mathematics II, shall:

- Earn the first high school credit in algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III; and
- Earn the second and third credits in mathematics courses that are consistent with the educational and career goals of the student.

(vi) A student who satisfactorily demonstrates competency in algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I pursuant to a written district policy, but does not receive credit under the

provisions of WAC 180-51-050, shall complete three credits of high school mathematics in the following sequence:

- Earn the first high school credit in geometry or integrated mathematics II;
- Earn the second high school credit in algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III; and
- Earn the third credit in a mathematics course that is consistent with the student's education and career goals.

(vii) A student who satisfactorily demonstrates competence in algebra 1 or integrated mathematics I and geometry or integrated mathematics II pursuant to a written district policy, but does not receive credit for the courses under the provisions of WAC 180-51-050, shall complete three credits of high school mathematics in the following sequence:

- Earn the first high school credit in algebra 2 or integrated mathematics III;
- Earn the second and third high school credits in courses that are consistent with the educational and career goals of the student.

(c) Two **science** credits (physical, life, and earth) that at minimum align with grade level expectations for ninth and tenth grade, plus content that is determined by the district. At least one credit in laboratory science is required which shall be defined locally. Assessment shall include the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning beginning 2010.

(d) Two and one-half **social studies** credits that at minimum align with the state's essential academic learning requirements in civics, economics, geography, history, and social studies skills at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in social studies at the high school level by 2008-09. In addition, districts shall require students to complete a classroom-based assessment in civics in the eleventh or twelfth grade also by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.095). The social studies requirement shall consist of the following mandatory courses or equivalencies:

(i) One credit shall be required in United States history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the United States. No other course content may be substituted as an equivalency for this requirement.

(ii) Under the provisions of RCW 28A.230.170 and 28A.230.090, one-half credit shall be required in Washington state history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the state of Washington and is encouraged to include information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian people who were the first inhabitants of the state.

(A) For purposes of the Washington state history and government requirement only, the term "secondary student" shall mean a student who is in one of the grades seven through twelve. If a district offers this course in the seventh or eighth grade, it can still count towards the state history and government graduation requirement. However, the course should only count as a high school credit if 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 as determined by the school district board of directors (RCW 28A.230.090 (4)).

(B) The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience approved by the local school principal under written district policy.

(C) Secondary school students who have completed and passed a state history and government course of study in another state may have the Washington state history and government requirement waived by their principal. The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions required under RCW 28A.230.170 shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience approved by the school principal under a written district policy.

(D) After completion of the tenth grade and prior to commencement of the eleventh grade, eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer from another state, and who have or will have earned two credits in social studies at graduation, may have the Washington state history requirement waived by their principal if without such a waiver they will not be able to graduate with their class.

(ii) One 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 current problems may be accepted as equivalencies.

(e) Two **health and fitness** credits that at minimum align with current essential academic learning requirements at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the local school district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in health and fitness at the high school level by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.095).

(i) The fitness portion of the requirement shall be met by course work in fitness education. The content of fitness courses shall be determined locally under WAC 180-51-025. Suggested fitness course outlines shall be developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. Students may be excused from the physical portion of the fitness requirement under RCW 28A.230.050. Such excused students shall be required to substitute equivalency credits in accordance with policies of boards of directors of districts, including demonstration of the knowledge portion of the fitness requirement.

(ii) "Directed athletics" shall be interpreted to include community-based organized athletics.

(f) One **arts** credit that at minimum is aligned with current essential academic learning requirements at grade ten and/or above plus content that is determined by the local school district. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is to be determined by the local district although state law requires districts to have "assessments or other strategies" in arts at the high school level by 2008-09. The state superintendent's office has developed classroom-based assessment models for districts to use (RCW 28A.230.-



095). The essential content in this subject area may be satisfied in the visual or performing arts.

(g) One credit in **occupational education**. "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 proposed or adopted in the career and technical education program standards of the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The assessment of achieved competence in this subject area is determined at the local district level.

(h) Five and one-half electives: Study in a world language other than English or study in a world culture may satisfy any or all of the required electives. The assessment of achieved competence in these subject areas is determined at the local district level.

(i) Each student shall complete a culminating project for graduation. The project shall consist of the student demonstrating both their learning competencies and preparations related to learning goals three and four. Each district shall define the process to implement this graduation requirement, including assessment criteria, in written district policy.

(j) Each student shall have a high school and beyond plan for their high school experience, including what they expect to do the year following graduation.

(k) Each student shall attain a certificate of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement. The tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning and Washington alternate assessment system shall determine attainment.

(2) State board of education approved private schools under RCW 28A.305.130(5) may, but are not required to, align their curriculums with the state learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210 or the essential academic learning requirements under RCW 28A.655.070.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.305.215(8), 28A.230.090, 10-19-118, § 180-51-066, filed 9/21/10, effective 10/22/10; 09-16-028, § 180-51-066, filed 7/27/09, effective 8/27/09; 08-18-013, § 180-51-066, filed 8/22/08, effective 9/22/08.]

**WAC 180-51-075 Social studies requirement—Mandatory courses—Equivalencies.** The social studies requirement in WAC 180-51-060 shall consist of the following mandatory courses or equivalencies:

(1) Pursuant to WAC 180-51-060, one credit shall be required in United States history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the United States. No other course content may be substituted as an equivalency for this requirement.

(2)(a) Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 28A.230.170, 28A.230.090, and WAC 180-51-060, one-half credit shall be required in Washington state history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the state of Washington and is encouraged to include information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian people who were the first inhabitants of the state.

(b) Secondary school students who have completed and passed a state history and government course of study in another state may have the Washington state history and gov-

(9/21/10)

ernment requirement waived by their principal. The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions required under RCW 28A.230.170 shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience approved by the school principal pursuant to a written district policy. For purposes of this subsection the term "secondary school students" shall mean a student who is in one of the grades seven through twelve.

(c) After completion of the tenth grade and prior to commencement of the eleventh grade, eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer from another state, and who have or will have earned two credits in social studies at graduation, may have the Washington state history requirement waived by their principal if without such a waiver they will not be able to graduate with their class.

(3) Pursuant to WAC 180-51-060, one 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 current problems may be accepted as equivalencies.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.170, 28A.230.060, 00-19-011, § 180-51-075, filed 9/7/00, effective 10/8/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.170, 28A.230.060, and 28A.230.090, 00-05-010, § 180-51-075, filed 2/4/00, effective 3/6/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.410.010, 94-03-104 (Order 5-94), § 180-51-075, filed 1/19/94, effective 2/19/94. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33, 90-17-009, § 180-51-075, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.05.060, 85-12-041 (Order 12-85), § 180-51-075, filed 6/5/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW, 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-075, filed 5/17/84.]

**WAC 180-51-095 Temporary exemption from course and credit requirements.** Annual exemptions to the definition of an annualized high school credit may be granted upon the request of an approved private school which offers evidence that delineates content, time, or competency assessments which are substantially equivalent to the definition stated in WAC 180-51-050. The waiver process shall be administered by the superintendent of public instruction.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 07-07-064, § 180-51-095, filed 3/14/07, effective 4/14/07.]

**WAC 180-51-107 Alternative high school graduation requirements.** Alternative high school graduation requirements may be established under WAC 180-18-055.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090, 28A.305.140 and 28A.600.010, 99-10-094, § 180-51-107, filed 5/4/99, effective 6/4/99.]

**WAC 180-51-115 Procedures for granting high school graduation credits for students with special educational needs.** (1) No student shall be denied the opportunity to earn a high school diploma solely because of limitations on the student's ability. The board of directors of districts granting high school diplomas shall adopt written policies, including procedures, for meeting the unique limitations of each student. Such procedures may provide for:

(a) The extension of time the student remains in school up to and including the school year in which such student reaches twenty-one years of age;

(b) A special education program in accordance with chapter 28A.155 RCW if the student is eligible; and

(c) Special accommodations for individual students, or in lieu thereof, exemption from any requirement in this chapter, if such requirement impedes the student's progress toward graduation and there is a direct relationship between the failure to meet the requirement and the student's limitation.

(2) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state special education laws, such procedures may not provide for exemption from the certificate of academic achievement graduation requirement under RCW 28A.655.060 (3)(c).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.230.090. 07-07-051, § 180-51-115, filed 3/14/07, effective 4/14/07; 00-19-108, § 180-51-115, filed 9/20/00, effective 10/21/00. Statutory Authority: 1990 c 33. 90-17-009, § 180-51-115, filed 8/6/90, effective 9/6/90. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.05 RCW. 84-11-049 (Order 7-84), § 180-51-115, filed 5/17/84.]