
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2706

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Hunter, Sommers, Tom, Anderson, Talcott, Quall, McIntire, Dunn, Green, Kenney and Lantz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a more rigorous curriculum for high
2 school graduation; amending RCW 28A.230.090; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, although
6 students are being expected to meet higher academic standards as
7 defined by the essential academic learning requirements, there is still
8 a gap between what is required for high school graduation and the
9 knowledge and skills students need to be successful in college or work.
10 This gap is particularly noticeable in mathematics. To make progress
11 in assuring that a high school diploma reflects adequate preparation
12 for the intellectual demands of adult life, the legislature intends to
13 phase in a more rigorous mathematics requirement for high school
14 graduation.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
18 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students.

1 (a) Beginning with the class of students entering ninth grade in
2 the 2008-09 school year, minimum high school graduation requirements
3 shall include the equivalent of three credits of mathematics, including
4 at least algebra I and geometry or their equivalents. Beginning with
5 the class of students entering ninth grade in the 2010-11 school year,
6 minimum high school graduation requirements shall include the
7 equivalent of four credits of mathematics, including at least algebra
8 II and geometry or their equivalents plus a higher-level mathematics
9 course designed to prepare students for postsecondary studies so they
10 can avoid remedial college mathematics.

11 (b) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
12 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
13 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
14 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

15 ~~((b))~~ (c) The certificate of academic achievement requirements
16 under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement
17 requirements under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a
18 public high school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

19 ~~((e))~~ (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state
20 board's high school graduation requirements for a high school and
21 beyond plan shall remain at the local level.

22 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
23 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
24 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
25 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
26 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

27 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
28 than English established by the state board of education or a local
29 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
30 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
31 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
32 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
33 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

34 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
35 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
36 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
37 high school graduation requirements if:

1 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
2 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
3 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
4 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
5 students enrolled in the class; or

6 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
7 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
8 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
9 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
10 district board of directors.

11 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
12 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
13 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
14 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

15 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
16 semester hours equals one high school credit.

--- END ---