

INSTRUCTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each student who has successfully completed an instructional program appropriate to his/her interests and needs shall be awarded a diploma at graduation ceremonies. The board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the district who meets the requirements of graduation established by the district.

The board shall establish graduation requirements which, as a minimum, satisfy those established by the state board of education:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>REQUIRED CREDITS</u>		
	<u>DPHS</u>	<u>ALT. HS</u>	<u>HOME-LINK</u>
English	4 credits	3 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits
Science (1 credit in Laboratory Science)	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits
Social Studies:		2.5 credits	
United States' History & Government	1 credit	(civics,	1 credit
Contemporary World History,		history and	
Geography, & Problems	1 credit	geography)	1 credit
World Cultures & Geography	1 credit		1 credit
Occupational Education**	1 credit		1 credit
Physical Education***	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits
Fine, Visual or Performing Arts****	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	6 credits	5.5 credits	6 credits
Culminating Project/Post High School Education Plan*****	Yes	Yes	(Class of 2008)
	21 credits	19 credits	21 credits

- ** Micro Computers is required.
- *** Healthy Choices required as .5 credit.
- **** or additional credit from subject areas listed above.
- ***** The Washington State History requirement can be satisfied at the 8th grade level.
- ***** Each student shall complete a culminating project demonstrating their learning competencies and preparations in compliance with State of Washington Learning Goals Three and Four.

A credit is defined as 150 hours of planned instructional activities excluding passing time. A Carnegie unit 180 (50 minute hours) is required unless a waiver process has occurred. No student may earn more than one credit/year to satisfy the state board requirements in English, Mathematics and Science except as provided in RCW 28A.230.100. The board shall approve additional graduation requirements as recommended by the superintendent.

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In addition to the minimum credit requirements, each student must complete:

1. A high school and beyond plan: Within the first year of high school enrollment, each student shall develop a plan for satisfying the district's high school graduation requirements and for their first year after high school completion. The plan shall be developed in collaboration with the student, parent and district staff. The plan shall include how the student will satisfy the district's academic credit requirement, preparation for successfully completing the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, a description of the student's culminating project and the student's goals for the year following graduation. Each student plan shall be reviewed annually at the beginning of the school year to assess student progress, to adjust the plan, and to advise the student on the steps necessary for successful completion of the plan.
2. A culminating project: During the course of his/her high school career, each student shall complete a culminating project. The project shall demonstrate the student's ability to think analytically, logically and creatively and to integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems. The project will also have a connection to the world of work in that it will demonstrate that the student understands the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.

The culminating project is a multi-year project that should commence at the beginning of the student's high school career and culminate in the senior year; and

3. Earn a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement.
- B. The superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which include:
1. Establishment of the process and assessment criteria for the high school culminating project requirements; and determination of the education plan process for identifying competencies.
 2. Establishing the process for completion of the high school and beyond plan.
 3. Recommending course and credit requirements which satisfy the state board of education requirements and recognize the expectations of the citizens of the district;
 4. 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 (another public school district, 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;

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5. Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public;
6. Providing for a waiver of graduation requirements for an individual student when permitted;
7. Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training;
8. Granting credit for correspondence, vocational-technical institutes and/or college courses for college or university course work 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;
9. Granting credit for work experience;
10. Granting credit based upon competence testing, in lieu of enrollment;
11. 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;
12. Counseling of students to know what is expected of them for completion of their schooling;
13. Preparing a list of all graduating students for the information of the board and release to the public;
14. Preparing suitable diplomas and final transcripts for graduating seniors;
15. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies;
16. Developing student learning plans for students who are not successful on one or more components of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

In the event minimum test requirements are adopted by the board, a student who possesses a disability shall satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

A student shall be issued a diploma after completing the district's requirements for graduation. In lieu of the certificate of academic achievement, special education students may earn a certificate of individual achievement. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript.

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However, a student's diploma may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages, or the equivalency through voluntary work, the diploma or transcript will be released. When the damages or fines do not exceed \$100, the student or his/her parents shall have the right to an appeal using the same process as used for short-term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishments. When damages are in excess of \$100, the appeal process for long term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishments shall apply.

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school shall be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten years. However, the board retains at its option, the ability to remove an obsolete graduation requirement effective immediately for all students.

In the event that other forms of corrective actions are imposed for violations of school rules, the student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

Cross References:	Board Policy	3110 3241 3520	Qualifications of Attendance and Placement Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment Student Fees, Fines, Charges
Legal References:	RCW	28A.230.090 28A.230.120 28A.600.300-400 28A.635.060	High school graduation requirements or equivalencies – Reevaluation and report by state board of education – Credit for courses taken before attending high school – Postsecondary credit equivalencies Option to receive final transcripts--Notice Running Start Defacing or injuring school property-Liability of parent or guardian
	WAC	180-50 180-51 180-57 392-169	Courses of studies and equivalencies High school graduation requirements Secondary Education--Standardized high school transcript Running Start