

The Washington State Board of Education Approved Graduation Requirements


Career and College Ready

At the end of 8th grade, students would be enrolled in a common career and college program of study, one that prepares them for all options after high school, unless they substitute courses according to their High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) in order to pursue a particular career or education goal.

Core Courses	Credits
English	4
Math	3
Science (2 Labs)	3
Social Studies	3
Art	1
Occupational Education	1
Health	.5
Fitness	1.5 ¹
High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)	
Arts	1*
World Languages	2*
Career Concentration	2
Electives	2
Summary	
Total Required Credits	24**

Mandatory

Student Choice

 **Meets or exceeds Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) minimum subject requirements for four-year public college admission.**

A Flexible Graduation Requirements Framework

¹ Students must earn credits in fitness unless excused per RCW 28A. 230.050.

* Students may substitute coursework for 1 credit of art and 2 credits of world language if other courses would better help them meet their educational and career goals as expressed in their High School and Beyond Plans

** Up to 2 credits could be waived by local administrators for students who have attempted 24 credits. Students must earn the designated credits in the mandatory subjects.

Note: Private schools must meet the state mandatory requirements. Private schools may elect to use career concentration and electives for their local requirements, per RCW 28A.195.010

OSPI Cost Analysis

Operating Costs	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Total cost for initiation of the HSBP in the 8th grade	\$3,844,220.84	\$3,878,930.33	\$3,897,009.05	\$3,866,729.50	\$3,809,859.45
Total Cost for High School Updates to the HSBP		\$2,602,070.66	\$5,604,054.91	\$8,998,801.31	\$11,522,950.81
Additional High School Counselor Needs		\$2,286,024.19	\$7,493,552.93	\$12,723,395.90	\$15,911,451.45
Total Costs of Additional Materials		\$1,337,839.62	\$222,973.27	\$222,973.27	\$222,973.27
Additional Instructional Time				\$35,448,228.89	\$35,772,423.32
One Time Capital Facility Costs		\$28,365,360.00			
Total Costs Per School Year	\$3,844,220.84	\$38,470,224.80	\$17,217,590.16	\$61,260,128.87	\$67,239,658.30

OSPI No State Cost Recommendations

1. Remove 150-hour definition of a credit and substitute the following non time-based definition: “Successful completion of the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the state, per written district policy.”
2. Two-For-One with required district reciprocity. (1 CTE-equivalent course = 1 credit = 2 requirements). Students may earn one credit and satisfy two graduation requirements (one academic and one career and technical) by completing a career and technical course determined by a district to be equivalent to an academic core course. Students will still need to earn the state minimum number of credits.
3. Make Washington State History and Government a non-credit requirement that must be successfully passed and noted on the student transcript that the requirement has been met.
4. Within the current 20-credit framework, the following credit changes would be made:
 - Increase English from 3 to 4 credits
 - Increase social studies from 2.5 to 3 credits, including .5 credits of civics
 - Designate .5 credit of health (while retaining 1.5 credits of fitness)
 - Decrease elective credits by 1.5

How Can Districts Prepare?

- Define what a credit will mean in the district
- Compare local requirements to the proposed new state requirements--What is the same? What's different?
- Find out what courses your students are already taking
- Start thinking about how to incorporate the HSBP in middle school
- Look at the connections between middle and high school—Can students earn high school credit in district middle schools? What does the district do to prepare students for the transition to high school?
- Consider adopting a competency-based credit policy for world languages (see WSSDA for sample policy and procedures)
- Review availability of CTE-equivalent courses

Districts Leading the Way

Currently Requiring: 4 credits of English, 3 credits of Math, 3 credits of Science, 3 credits of Social Studies

14 Districts with Fewer than 500 students:

Almira, Coulee-Hartline, Klickitat, Lopez Island, Lyle, Orcas Island, Pe Ell, Quilcene, Skykomish, Thorp, Waitsburg, Wilbur, Willapa Valley, Wishkah

13 Districts with 501-1000 students:

Brewster, Chewelah, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Davenport, Freeman, Kalama, Mossyrock, Onalaska, Oroville, Rainier, Raymond, Rearden-Edwall, Warden

14 Districts with 1,000-5,000 students:

Anacortes, Cashmere, Castle Rock, Highland, Hockinson, La Center, Lynden, Meridian, Mount Baker, North Mason, Ridgefield, Royal, West Valley, Zillah

2 Districts with More Than 5,000 students:

Clover Park, Kent