

# Washington State Graduation Requirements: Graduating Class of 2013

Following is a summary of the graduation requirements in effect for the graduating Class of 2013 (students entering grade 9 in 2009-2010). Graduation requirements are set by three groups:

- The State Board of Education establishes minimum credit requirements, the Culminating Project and the High School and Beyond Plan.
- The Legislature requires the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.
- Districts or Private Schools specify additional requirements.

## Credit-bearing Graduation Requirements

The Table below summarizes the new state-level credit requirements for the graduating Class of 2013; districts may have additional requirements.

### State Credit Requirements for Graduating Class of 2013 (Students entering grade 9 in 2009-2010)

Subject	Credits
English	3.0
Math, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II, and III.*	3.0
Science, including one Lab Science	2.0
Social Studies, see WAC 180-51-075 for course equivalents	2.5
Health & Fitness Education	2.0
Occupational Education	1.0
Arts	1.0
Electives	5.5
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>20.0</b>

\*Note: After students take Algebra I and Geometry (or Integrated Math I and II), they may elect a third credit of math different from Algebra II or Integrated Math III if the choice is consistent with the career-oriented program of study identified in the student's High School and Beyond Plan. The decision to take a different third credit of math requires that the student, parent or guardian, and a school official meet formally, discuss requirements for two- and four-year colleges, and sign a form acknowledging that the math of choice is more suited to the student's education and career goals. More detail can be found at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=180-51-066>

## Non-Credit Bearing Graduation Requirements

- **Pass reading, writing, math and science Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL),** or a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education. The graduating Class of 2013 will have an additional option to choose math end-of-course exams. For more information on the WASL visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/resources/pubdocs/2008/WASL-HSDiploma.pdf>
- **Complete Culminating Project.** This pragmatic, hands-on project gives students a formal opportunity to demonstrate how they apply their learning. Each district determines the requirements for the culminating project, which is related to two of Washington's learning goals:
  - 1) think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems and
  - 2) understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.

For a guide to the Culminating Project visit: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/gradcproject.html#guide>

- **Complete High School and Beyond Plan.** The High School and Beyond Plan is designed to get students thinking about their future and how to get the most out of high school. Ideally, students write their plan in eighth or ninth grade and then continue to revise it throughout high school to accommodate changing interests or goals. Each school district determines the guidelines for the High School and Beyond Plan, please contact your district for your local guidelines. The State Board of Education recommends that the High School and Beyond Plan begin in middle school. For more information on the High School and Beyond Plan visit: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/hsbeyondplan.html#>
- **Meet all other district-specific requirements.** Local school districts have the authority to establish graduation requirements in addition to those set by the SBE and Legislature. Please contact your local district for additional guidelines.

